



# INDEPENDENT OPERA

At Sadler's Wells presents the UK première of

Karl Amadeus Hartmann's

## SIMPLICIUS SIMPLICISSIMUS

In a new English translation by David Pountney

11, 15, 17 & 19 November 2016

LILIAN BAYLIS STUDIO, SADLER'S WELLS

*"Chamber opera attracts a different audience. It has a different repertoire. And it's the perfect showcase for young professionals, as Independent Opera has shown..."*

The Financial Times

Opening on Friday 11 November 2016, the UK première of Karl Amadeus Hartmann's *Simplicius Simplicissimus* will be staged by Independent Opera (IO) at the Lilian Baylis Studio, Sadler's Wells. Set up to provide a platform for outstanding young artists in every discipline of opera, the sixth chamber opera to be presented by IO will be directed by the winner of IO's Director Fellowship Award 2016, Polly Graham.

Nominated for the Fellowship by Michael McCarthy (Artistic Director, Music Theatre Wales) and Isabel Murphy (Director of Artistic Administration, Welsh National Opera), Polly Graham's award will not only provide the funding for her to stage Hartmann's *Simplicius Simplicissimus*, but also mentoring from selection process panellists David Pountney and Stephen Medcalf. The new production features a cast led by Stephanie Corley, Emyr Wyn Jones, Adrian Thompson, Tristan Hambleton and Mark Le Brocq, with the Britten Sinfonia conducted by Timothy Redmond. Composed in 1934-35, and later revised in 1948 and 1956-57, Hartmann's opera is based on Grimmelshausen's picaresque novel in which Simplicius - meaning simpleton or fool in German - finds his life upturned by the horrors of the Thirty Years' War.

Independent Opera at Sadler's Wells was founded in 2005 and launched its 100<sup>th</sup> award last year in celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The award was presented to Max Hoehn, director of last year's production of Voseček's *Biedermann and the Arsonists*, also at Sadler's Wells. The roots of IO are to be found in an encounter between Bill Bollinger, Founding Patron of IO, and Alessandro Talevi, an accompanist from the Royal Academy of Music, whose production of Poulenc's *La voix humaine* Bill attended. Bill's imagination was fired by the anomaly between the size of ambition and that of the budget, and together with Alessandro, determined to find a way to use this as a model by which young artists could be provided with a proper platform for their talents. At this point, Anna Gustafson, acting as General Manger, was brought into the mix and, within the year, IO had launched its first production - Rossini's *La Scala di Seta* - at the London Oratory School's Arts Theatre. IO has since gone onto support 99 individuals in the fields of singing, directing, design, choreography and production through a comprehensive programme of scholarships, fellowships, partnerships and patronage. From 2017, IO will support an annual concert at the Wigmore Hall for their current vocal award recipients, all recent graduates from the UK's leading music conservatoires in partnership with IO.

Co-founders and patrons of Independent Opera Bill and Judy Bollinger were recognised as Philanthropists of the Year at the 2016 International Opera Awards.

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Stephanie Corley	Simplicius
Emyr Wyn Jones	Farmer
William Dazeley	Soldier
Adrian Thompson	Hermit
Tristan Hambleton	Sergeant
Mark Le Brocq	Governor
Matthew Durkan	Captain
Chiara Vinci	Dancer

Ensemble	Tristan Hambleton, Emyr Wyn Jones, Nichols Morris, Nicholas Morton, Bradley Smith, Adam Sullivan, Andrew Tipple and James Way
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Director:	Polly Graham
Designer:	Nate Gibson
Conductor:	Timothy Redmond
Orchestra:	Britten Sinfonia

**For further information:**

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