



Independent Opera

Marks its 10th year with the UK première of

Šimon Voseček's

BIEDERMANN AND THE ARSONISTS

In a new English translation by David Pountney

14, 17 & 19 November 2015

LILIAN BAYLIS STUDIO, SADLER'S WELLS

"The vocalists, players and stage staff are drawn from the ranks of emerging talent by Independent Opera, a much-needed platform for outstanding entrants to the profession..."

London Evening Standard, 10 November 2006

Independent Opera (IO) recently presented its 100th award in the form of its new Director Fellowship, celebrating 10 years since it took its first steps to support the field of opera.

The 2015 Director Fellowship, which is valued at £300,000 inclusive of a £15,000 director's stipend, has been awarded to 25-year old Max Hoehn who will stage the UK première of Šimon Voseček's *Biedermann and the Arsonists* this November at the Lilian Baylis Studio at Sadler's Wells. Nominated, amongst others, by Graham Vick for whom he translated *Khovanshchina/Khovanskygate: A National Enquiry* for Birmingham Opera Company and on which he worked as Assistant Director, Max will additionally receive mentoring from David Pountney and Welsh National Opera as part of the IO Director Fellowship.

IO took its first steps as an opera company in 2005 when it presented a production of Rossini's *La Scala di Seta* at the London Oratory School's Arts Theatre. The talent and commitment of everyone involved convinced IO of the need for more formalised support for opera practitioners. The following year, IO established a relationship with Sadler's Wells where it presented three productions over three years: Handel's *Orlando* (2006); a double bill of one-act operas by Elizabeth Maconchy, *The Sofa* and *The Departure*, marking the composer's 100th birthday (2007); and a new chamber orchestration of Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* commissioned by IO (2008).

IO's comprehensive programme of scholarships, fellowships, partnerships and patronage was launched in 2007 and to date has awarded 100 grants with a total value of £600,000 to 84 individuals. In addition to the IO Postgraduate Voice Fellowships and Voice Scholarships given currently in collaboration with five of the UK's leading music conservatoires (Royal College of Music; Royal Academy of Music; Guildhall School of Music and Drama; Royal Northern College of Music; and Royal Conservatoire of Scotland), IO's Fellowship programme includes individual awards for artistic directors, designers, choreographers (given in collaboration with Sadler's Wells), sponsored artists, producers and singers (given in collaboration with the Wigmore Hall).

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While appearing in IO productions is not a prerequisite to receiving IO Artist Support, this year's staging of *Biedermann and the Arsonists* will feature two recipients of IO's Postgraduate Vocal Fellowships: Alinka Kozári, who also appeared in *The Sofa* in 2007, in the role of Babette Biedermann, and Raphaela Papadakis who will sing the role of Anna. They are joined by Mark Le Brocq, Leigh Melrose and Matthew Hargreaves as Gottlieb Biedermann, Josef Schmitz and Wilhelm Eisenring, respectively, as well as Adam Sullivan, John Herford and Bradley Travis as the three firemen. Timothy Redmond conducts the Britten Sinfonia in a new English translation by David Pountney of Czech composer Šimon Voseček's *Biedermann und die Brandstifter* which received its world première in Vienna in 2013 at the Neue Oper Wien.

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Mark Le Brocq	Gottlieb Biedermann
Alinka Kozári	Babette Biedermann
Leigh Melrose	Josef Schmitz
Matthew Hargreaves	Wilhelm Eisenring
Raphaela Papadakis	Anna
Adam Sullivan	Fireman
Johnny Herford	Fireman
Bradley Travis	Fireman

Director:	Max Hoehn
Set & Costume Designer:	Jemima Robinson
Lighting Designer:	Giuseppe di Lorio
Conductor:	Timothy Redmond
Orchestra:	Britten Sinfonia

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