



INDEPENDENT OPERA at Sadler's Wells

marks its third opera production with the announcement of a comprehensive programme of scholarships, fellowships, partnerships and patronage

Tuesday 2 October 2007 at 12.00 noon, Lilian Baylis Theatre, Sadler's Wells

Elizabeth Maconchy one-act operas: *The Sofa* and *The Departure*
November 13, 15 and 17 – Lilian Baylis Theatre

INDEPENDENT OPERA at Sadler's Wells (IO) today announces a 5-year comprehensive programme of scholarships, fellowships, partnerships and patronage totalling over £500,000. In tandem with its annual production at the Lilian Baylis Theatre, IO Artist Support has been conceived to give artists starting in the operatic field practical, as well as stage experience, and marks IO out as a serious new contributor to the operatic field.

Singling it out from other performance-based companies, the programme of awards—available to singers, directors, designers, conductors and choreographers, and not dependent upon the artist being involved with an IO performance—is an integral component of IO's long-term objective: to give those involved in the staging and production of opera the support they need off- and on-stage, at the outset of their careers. Eight individual fellowships (four voice and one each for directors, designers, choreographers and sponsored artists), available from September 2007 will be augmented in September 2008 by six further fellowships (four voice, one each for conductors and sponsored artists), and the initial six IO Vocal Scholarships available through music conservatories which offer full-time opera courses. In addition, IO's partnership with the Wigmore Hall has resulted in the creation of the Wigmore Hall/Independent Opera Voice Fellowship.

IO took its first steps as an opera company with a production of Rossini's *La Scala di Seta* at the London Oratory School's Arts Theatre in 2005. 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, presenting its first production—Handel's *Orlando*—at the Lilian Baylis Theatre in November 2006. *Orlando* will be repeated in a concert performance at the Wigmore Hall in June 2008 and a staged performance at the Prague Spring Festival 2009.

This year's production at the Lilian Baylis Theatre marks Elizabeth Maconchy's 100th birthday with two one-act operas: *The Sofa* and *The Departure*, and adds 20th century repertoire to the 18th and 19th century operas previously staged by IO. In addition to having received their first performances at Sadler's Wells in the 1950's and 1960's, Maconchy's one-act operas were selected as pieces that would give the cast and production team new and valuable experience. IO's production will be directed by Alessandro Talevi, with a cast headed by soprano Sarah Tynan, conducted by Dominic Wheeler.

For press enquiries:

Ginny Macbeth or Philipp Carl
Macbeth Media Relations 020 7 700 5959
philipp@macbethmediarelations.co.uk

NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

All **INDEPENDENT OPERA Postgraduate Voice Fellowships** are given on audition to residents of the U.K. under the age of 40. Applications must be received by 10 January 2008. The next auditions are held on 6, 7 February and 5, 6 March 2008.

Applicants for the **INDEPENDENT OPERA Designer's Fellowship, Sadler's Wells/ Independent Opera Choreographer's Fellowship** and **INDEPENDENT OPERA Conductor's Fellowship** must be residents of the U.K. under the age of 40 and may apply directly to INDEPENDENT OPERA. Applications must be received by 10 January 2008. Interviews take place in early spring 2008.

Applicants for the **INDEPENDENT OPERA Artistic Director's Fellowship** must be residents of the U.K. under the age of 40. The deadline for applications is 1 June two years prior to the production. The next envisaged opening for consideration of applications is 2009 for the 2011 production.

For further information on criteria, application processes and selection procedures please check INDEPENDENT OPERA's website: **www.independentopera.com**