



MAHOGANY OPERA

Snappy Operas

Ten mini-operas
created for and
with young people



Mahogany Opera launches the Snappy Opera Festival – uniting thousands of children to stage and perform their own operas across the country.

A Snappy Opera is a ten-minute opera for young people (aged 7-11). It introduces and demystifies all the essential elements of opera – singing, acting and making – in fun, colourful and bite-size chunks. Each fully staged and costumed piece is designed to be performed by a class sized group of children, divided into sub-groups and accompanied by professional musicians.

Over the last two years **Mahogany Opera** has created **ten** new **ten-minute Snappy Operas**, composed by some of the UK's most exciting composers and writers. Working with partners & schools across the UK, alongside leading music professionals, Mahogany Opera has collaborated with over 1,500 young people to bring the ten Snappy Operas to life. Mahogany Opera were thrilled to have been awarded the Creative Learning Guild National Award for Achievement in Primary Schools for Snappy Operas in 2018.

Judge Trisha Lee: “The scope and depth of this work is impressive. It is important that we break down barriers around any art form and Opera in particular is often seen as inaccessible. This programme demonstrated creativity and innovation, reaching children across the country. Let's hope it becomes a regular event”

Snappy Opera Festival 2019

Involving children from Northamptonshire, West Cumbria, Suffolk, Nottingham, North Tyneside and Leicestershire, Mahogany Opera will place dedicated creative teams within each school – a director, music director, repetiteur and stage manager to deliver four two-hour sessions spread over a half term (six weeks). The Snappy Opera Festival will culminate in a series of performances across the UK. The participating primary schools in each region will come together in their local theatre for a shared, grand finale performance. The first festival performance takes place at Nevill Holt Opera on 28 June in partnership with the David Ross Education Trust.

Legacy

With the aim of leaving a lasting legacy in schools, Mahogany Opera has run a series of training days as part of the Snappy Opera Festival. Designed for the festival's professional delivery teams, teachers and a broader network of practitioners, these training days were developed and led by Snappy Opera programme consultants Stephen Deazley and Freya Wynn-Jones. To support this training, scores, word sheets, bespoke design packs and audio resources are made available on the Mahogany Opera website to participating schools.

Artistic Director, Frederic Wake-Walker says: *As I travel across the UK visiting primary schools I am bowled over by the enthusiasm and excitement that opera generates among children, teachers and parents but I'm also shocked and frustrated by the lack of resources, time and confidence to deliver it. What we've learned since launching the project in 2017 is that Snappy Operas delivers in a most holistic, compact and engaging way.*

Our dream at Mahogany is for every child to experience opera before they leave school; not just to foster a life-long love of music and theatre but because of the incalculably positive affect opera has on enabling self-expression, sparking the imagination, fostering creativity, building confidence, teaching empathy, opening up new lines of communication between children, teachers and parents, connecting us to our emotions, improving motor skills and coordination. In short, within opera lie the fundamental building blocks of human development and Snappy Operas are the most wonderful learning tools to access this.

mahoganyopera.co.uk
@mahoganyopera

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SNAPPY OPERA FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES 2019

- 28 June** Nevill Holt Opera House in partnership with the David Ross Education Trust
- 29 June** Southwold Arts Festival in partnership with Southwold Music Trust
- 1 July** Nottingham Playhouse in partnership with Nottingham Playhouse
- 3 July** Playhouse, Whitley Bay in partnership with North Tyneside Music Education Hub
- 4 July** Robert Smythe School, Market Harborough in partnership with Leicester-Shire Music Education Hub
- 2 August** Rosehill Theatre, Whitehaven in partnership with Rosehill Theatre

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

THE SNAPPY OPERAS:

Counting Sheep by Jamie Man and Stephen Plaice

Fox-Pop by Kerry Andrew

Machine Dream by Nathan Williamson and Zanib Mian

PECK! by Stephen Deazley and Matthew Harvey

The Itch Witch by Emily Hall and Toby Litt

The Big History of Little England by Philip Venables and Ted Huffman

The Feast That Went Off With A Bang by Ed Hughes and Peter Cant*

The Magical Music Tree by Luke Carver Goss and Ian McMillan

The World's Beating Heart by Gwyneth Herbert

The Lighthouse Wave by Errollyn Wallen

*Nominated for a British Composer Award 2017

About Mahogany Opera:

Mahogany Opera Group is a leading commissioner and producer of opera and music theatre. Since the merger of The Opera Group and Mahogany Opera in 2014, we have commissioned and produced 16 world premiere productions and toured them extensively across the UK and internationally. The company is led by Artistic Director, Frederic Wake-Walker and Executive Manager, Allison Rosser.

Our vision is for opera to be an inclusive, collaborative and dynamic artform that speaks meaningfully to people in today's society. Our mission is to stretch the boundaries of what opera can be and who it is for.