

NEWS RELEASE

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A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG SINGERS TO MAKE MAGICAL MUSIC THIS SUMMER!

Rosehill's *Summer Sing!* returns for another year in partnership with Mahogany Opera.

From Monday 29 July to Friday 2 August Rosehill Theatre will be presenting their Summer Sing – a week of activities for children aged 7-11 years old to explore their creativity and performance skills. Delivered in partnership with Mahogany Opera, children will explore one of their Snappy Operas – *The Magical Music Tree* – and work with professional artists to explore singing, drama, design and have the chance to perform the opera to an audience of family and friends at the end of the week.

The Magical Music Tree is one of ten Snappy Operas created by Mahogany Opera. A Snappy Opera is a ten-minute opera for young people (aged 7-11) which introduces and demystifies all the essential elements of opera – singing, acting and making – in fun, colourful and bite-size chunks.

The Magical Music Tree is a wonderful story starring a dodo, a flying fish and a unicorn who live in a tree that makes music. The tree is threatened with destruction by a band of hunters, but the creatures hatch a cunning plan that has everyone singing in harmony!

Working with professional musicians, a director and a designer, the children will get the chance to take part in singing workshops, stage rehearsals and design workshops. They will also get to work with composer Stephen Deazley to write their own songs, which will be performed alongside the Snappy Opera at the end of the week.

Rosehill Theatre and Mahogany Opera have been working in partnership since 2014 to bring opera for young audiences to the region, as well as engaging young people in the creative process – together they have worked with 9 primary schools and 614 school children on 4 projects where the participants have performed to more than 1500 audience members.

Anne Timpson, Rosehill's Taking Part programme manager, said: "Having seen the benefits of participating in a Snappy Opera first hand in primary schools, we were really keen to be able to offer this outside of term time to more children and our Summer Sing! seemed the perfect opportunity to do this. It's a great way for children to explore their passion for singing, increase their confidence and make new friends! We are delighted to be a part of Mahogany Opera's Snappy Opera festival, extending our partnership with them."

Freddie Wake-Walker, Mahogany Opera's Artistic Director said: "Mahogany Opera values hugely its close relationship with Rosehill. Only by working together are we able to fulfil our shared aims of creating child-centred work with high quality professionals in areas of low engagement. Many of the most inspiring moments of my career have occurred when working in West Cumbria and I am looking forward to continuing our relationship that will impact on the many children, schools and communities that connect with Rosehill."

The course runs at Rosehill Theatre, Whitehaven, from Monday 29 July until Friday 2 August, 9.30am to 4pm, and costs £50 (£10 discount for siblings). Booking is available online through the Rosehill Theatre website or by calling Rosehill's box office on 01946 692422.



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Notes to editors:

1. *A Snappy Opera is a ten-minute opera written with children, for children, which introduces all the essential elements of opera – singing, acting and making – in a fun, colourful and bite-size chunk. Through partnerships with Music Education Hubs, Multi-Academy Trusts and venues, Mahogany Opera have so far engaged 2,500 primary school children from across the UK who have given 200 performances of the ten new operas to their peers, teachers, families and the general public.*
<https://www.mahoganyopera.co.uk/productions/snappy-operas/>
2. *Mahogany Opera began its partnership with Rosehill Theatre in 2014 with its production of Hans Krása’s opera **Brundibár**, which saw over 500 children across the country help create the piece and take on roles in the show – this work won the Production of the Year category in the Cumbria Life Culture awards in 2015. In 2016 the partnership included the development of a new family opera, **The Rattler** and from 2017 Rosehill have been a regional partner on Mahogany Opera’s **Snappy Opera** project, which this year saw its first inaugural **Snappy Opera Festival**, of which Rosehill’s Summer Sing is a part.*
<https://www.mahoganyopera.co.uk/past-productions/brundib-r/>
<https://www.mahoganyopera.co.uk/productions/the-rattler/>
<https://www.mahoganyopera.co.uk/productions/snappy-operas/>
3. *Stephen Deazley is an award-winning composer and collaborator. Acknowledged as a renowned educationalist he is in constant demand creating innovative new works for young musicians. He is founder of the music education charity Love Music, artistic director of Big Big Sing and composer in residence with Sage Gateshead’s In Harmony Orchestra.*
4. *High-res images attached separately.*

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