



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

**THE ROYAL OPERA**

Music Director

**SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO** *cvo*

Director of Opera

**OLIVER MEARS**

# L'OLIMPIADE

A co-production with **IRISH NATIONAL OPERA, THE ROYAL OPERA** and **NOUVEL OPÉRA FRIBOURG**

Music **ANTONIO VIVALDI**

Libretto **PIETRO METASTASIO**

Antonio Vivaldi *L'Olimpiade*: Drame Lirico in 3 Atti (RV 725). Critical edition by Alessandro Borin & Antonio Moccia © Casa Ricordi Srl., Milano (Universal Music Publishing Group, Classics & Screen). By arrangement with G. Ricordi & Co. (London) Ltd.

Conductor **PETER WHELAN**

Director **DAISY EVANS**

Set and Costume Designer **MOLLY O'CATHAIN**

Lighting Designer **JAKE WILTSHIRE**

Movement Director **MATTHEW FORBES**

Generous philanthropic support from  
**DAME TINA TAYLOR DBE**

**13 MAY 2024 AT 7.15PM\***

**15 MAY 2024 AT 7.15PM\***

**17 MAY 2024 AT 7.15PM**

**19 MAY 2024 AT 2.00PM**

**20 MAY 2024 AT 7.15PM**

**22 MAY 2024 AT 7.15PM**

**24 MAY 2024 AT 7.15PM**

**25 MAY 2024 AT 7.15PM**

## APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

This performance lasts approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes, including one interval.

## LANGUAGE

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

## CAST

Alcandro **SEÁN BOYLAN**

Licida **MEILI LI**

Megacle **GEMMA NÍ BHRIAIN**

Aminta **RACHEL REDMOND**

Argene **SARAH RICHMOND**

Clistene **CHUMA SIJEQA**

Aristea **ALEXANDRA URQUIOLA**

Irish Baroque Orchestra

First violins **MICHAEL GUREVICH** (Leader), **CONOR GRICMANIS**

Second violins **ALICE EARLL, ANITA VEDRES**

Viola **JOANNA PATRICK**

Cello **SARAH MCMAHON**

Double bass **ROSIE MOON**

Lute **PABLO FITZGERALD**

Bassoon **LUÍS TASSO SANTOS**

Harpichord **PETER WHELAN**



Supported using public funding by  
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**Culture Ireland**  
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**Irish National Opera**



\*Due to illness, the role of Megacle will be sung from the pit by Maria Schellenberg and walked by Gemma Ní Bhriain

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## SYNOPSIS

### THE BACKGROUND

#### KING CLISTENE AND FILINTO

In the kingdom of Sicyon, King Clistene fathers two children, a son Filinto and a daughter Aristeia. When he hears of a prophecy from the oracle of Delphi that his death will be at the hands of his own son, he abandons Filinto and leaves him to die.

#### ARISTEA AND MEGACLE

Aristeia develops a romantic attachment to Megacle, an Athenian of exceptional athletic prowess. King Clistene again imposes his will, and forbids the relationship, because of his disdain for Athenians.

#### LICIDA AND ARGENE

Prince Licida of Crete has become engaged to Argene, but his father also interferes. He forbids the marriage, and reprimands Licida after a foiled elopement. Argene flees the court and disguises herself as a shepherdess under the name of Licori.

#### LICIDA AND MEGACLE

The connection between Licida and Megacle runs deep. Licida rescued his friend from certain death and Megacle feels greatly indebted because of this. He wants to find a way of repaying him.

### THE ACTION

The action opens as the Olympic Games draw to a close. King Clistene has promised the hand of his daughter Aristeia in marriage to the winner. Licida, who wants to impress his father and thus redeem himself, hatches a plan to win and marry Aristeia. Megacle, who wants to honour his friend for having saved his life, competes in the games disguised as Licida. Licida, however, is unaware of Megacle's previous attachment to Aristeia.

Meanwhile Argene (who is still in love with Licida) and Aristeia meet and discuss their past relationships with Licida and Megacle. Argene discloses the only way to get over her heartbreak was to leave court entirely, while Aristeia is still stuck in a vicious power battle with her father.

Megacle (disguised as Licida) is victorious in the games, and accidentally runs into Aristeia who is excited to meet him. However he holds back, and the plot to win Aristeia on behalf of Licida comes out. The revelation leaves Aristeia heartbroken, and Licida's own lover, Argene is enraged with him.

Chaos ensues, including reports of Megacle's death. In a final twist it's revealed that Licida is in fact King Clistene's long-abandoned son. Through the expression of passionate love, heroic friendship and unwavering loyalty, the story culminates in a resolution demonstrating the consequences of tempting fate and the complexity of human emotions.

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## THE ROYAL OPERA

Patron **HM THE KING**

Music Director **SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO CVO**

Director of Opera **OLIVER MEARS**

Director of Casting **PETER MARIO KATONA**

Administrative Director **CORMAC SIMMS**

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Senior Producer **RACHEL CACCIA**

Producer **GRACE COOK**

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