



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

**THE ROYAL OPERA**

Music Director

**SIR ANTONIO PAPPANO** *cvo*

Director of Opera

**OLIVER MEARS**

# THE FLYING DUTCHMAN

**ROMANTISCHE OPER IN ONE ACT**

Music **RICHARD WAGNER**

Libretto **RICHARD WAGNER** after Heinrich Heine's Aus den Memoiren des Herren von Schnabelewopski

Conductor **HENRIK NÁNÁSI**

Director **TIM ALBERY**

Set Designer **MICHAEL LEVINE**

Costume Designer **CONSTANCE HOFFMAN**

Lighting Designer **DAVID FINN**

Movement Director **PHILIPPE GIRAUDEAU**

**ROYAL OPERA CHORUS**

Chorus Director **WILLIAM SPAULDING**

**ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**

Concert Master **MAGNUS JOHNSTON**

Exceptional philanthropic support from

Royal Opera House Principals

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**PHILIPP FREISE, THE WAGNER CIRCLE**  
and **THE PATRONS OF COVENT GARDEN**

In memory of **PETER ESPENHAHN**

**TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2024 AT 11.30AM**

General rehearsal

## APPROXIMATE TIMINGS

This performance will last for approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes with no interval.

## LANGUAGE

Sung in German with English surtitles

## GUIDANCE

Suitable for all ages

## CAST

Daland **STEPHEN MILLING**

Steersman **MILES MYKKANEN**

The Dutchman **BRYN TERFEL**

Senta **ELISABET STRID**

Mary **KSENIIA NIKOLAIEVA**

Erik **TOBY SPENCE**

Sailors, factory women

Extra Chorus

Sopranos **ANGELA CAESAR,**

**CAROLINE LENTON-WARD, ELEANOR PENNELL-BRIGGS, ALISON RAYNER, ELIZABETH ROBERTS, ELINOR ROLFE-JOHNSON, ROSALIND WATERS, VANESSA WOODFINE**

Mezzo-Sopranos **JEANETTE AGER, TAMSIN DALLEY, SIOBHAIN GIBSON, MARIA JONES, ZOE TODD, JENNIFER WESTWOOD**

Tenors **ROBERT AMON, PHILLIP BELL, SIMON BIAZECK, ANDREW BURDEN, ANDREW BUSER, MARK CHAUNDY, EDMOND CHOO, JONATHAN COOKE, DARRELL FORKIN, ANDREW FRIEDHOFF, JAMES GEER,**

**ANDREW MACKENZIE-WICKS, SIMON MCENERY, RICHARD MONK, RORY O'CONNOR, JOHN PIERCE, RICHARD REAVILLE, JAMES SCARLETT,**

**PHILIP SHEFFIELD, ANDREW H SINCLAIR, JULIAN STOCKER, BEN THAPA, ALEX WALL**

Basses **TREVOR ALEXANDER, JOCHEM VAN AST,**

**DONALDSON BELL, JAMES BIRCHALL, MARK CAMPBELL-GRIFFITHS, OSCAR CASTELLINO, GERARD DELREZ, CHRISTOPHER FOSTER,**

**OLIVER GIBBS, LAWRENCE GILLIANS,**

**GABRIEL GOTTLIEB, GAVIN HORSLEY,**

**CHRISTOPHER LACKNER, BARTHOLOMEW LAWRENCE, RUSSELL MATTHEWS, GERAINT MILES, JOHN MORGAN, MARTIN NELSON, PAUL PARFITT, SIMON PREECE,**

**JAMES QUILLIGAN, MARK SABERTON, AIDAN SMITH, CHRIS THORNTON-HOLMES**

Actors **RICHARD GITTINS, TOM LEVERMORE, LOCKHART OGILVIE, ALEX RAJAN-IYER**

## PRODUCTION

Music preparation **PATRICK MILNE, CHRISTOPHER WILLIS, ERIKA GUNDESEN**

Assistant Directors **DAN DOONER, DEBORAH COHEN**

Language Coach **FRANZISKA ROTH**



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## SYNOPSIS

Due to a violent storm, Daland, a ship's captain, has been forced to abandon reaching his home port and instead temporarily anchor his ship in a nearby bay. Daland's Steersman is left to keep watch; he sings a ballad describing his yearning for his sweetheart, then falls asleep. A strange ship moors alongside, and its captain, the Flying Dutchman of seafaring legend, comes ashore. He describes the curse placed upon him. Once during a storm he swore that he would round a cape even if it took him until eternity; the Devil took him at his word, so now the seaman is fated to sail the seas forever unless he can find a woman who will be 'faithful unto death'. He longs for salvation, and every seven years comes to port to search for such a woman; that time has come again, although he doubts he will find her.

Daland returns and rouses the Steersman, who hails the strange ship moored next to them, but no one responds. Daland sees the Dutchman on the shore and questions him. The Dutchman tells him of his endless travels and asks for Daland's hospitality, in return for generous payment. When the Dutchman discovers that Daland has a daughter, he asks if he can marry her, in exchange for all his wealth. Daland, though suspicious, is delighted at the prospect of becoming rich. A southerly wind springs up and Daland's crew prepare to depart for home, followed by the Dutchman's ship.

In a clothing factory, the women are sewing and singing. Mary reproaches Senta for daydreaming instead of working. The other women tease her for her obsession with the Flying Dutchman, particularly when Erik is already in love with her. Senta asks Mary to sing the ballad of the Flying Dutchman, and, when she refuses, sings it herself. As she comes to the song's end, Senta declares that she will be the woman to save the doomed Dutchman. Everyone is horrified, especially Erik, who has overheard – he has come to announce that Daland's ship is returning to port. Mary orders the women home to prepare for the men's arrival. Erik is upset at Senta's growing distance from him. He tells her of a strange dream he has had, in which he saw Senta sailing away on a mysterious ship with a stranger. Senta is now convinced that the Dutchman is seeking her and that it is her fate to save him. Erik leaves in despair. Daland arrives with the Dutchman and introduces him to Senta. She is transfixed by the visitor, and Daland urges her to accept his offer of marriage.

Senta and the Dutchman are left alone, both contemplating the fulfilment of their dreams. Senta accepts the Dutchman's offer of marriage, telling him she will be his salvation. The Dutchman warns her of the sacrifices she will make by marrying him, but she swears she will be true until death. Daland returns, overjoyed that there is now an engagement to be celebrated.

The sailors are having a party. The women arrive with drink. They call out to the Dutchman's ship, but no one responds. Unnerved by the ghostly stillness, the women leave. The men become more rowdy, shouting at the Dutchman's ship. To their shock, the Dutchman's crew suddenly reply.

Erik arrives, distraught that Senta seems to be abandoning him for the Dutchman. Overhearing the end of their conversation, the Dutchman is convinced that Senta is unfaithful. Senta begs him to trust her, but he is determined to return to sea. He tells her of the women who have broken their vows to him in the past: they have been eternally damned. He will save Senta, by leaving now before she can break her vows. He reveals his identity as the legendary Flying Dutchman, boards his ship, and leaves. Senta remains behind, alone.

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## THE ROYAL OPERA

Patron **THE FORMER PRINCE OF WALES**

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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