

# British Youth Opera Auditions

## for the 2018 Summer Season

Rehearsals in London from 16 July (*although some participants will not be required until a later date*)  
Performances in London until 8 September

Possible repertoire to include:

Handel

*Alcina*

Monteverdi

*L'incoronazione di Poppea*

Stravinsky

*The Rake's Progress*

Wolf

*Der Corregidor*

Handel, Vivaldi, Rameau etc *The Enchanted Island* – a pastiche devised by Jeremy Sams  
and premiered by the Metropolitan Opera in 2011

## and Opera Workshops Easter and Summer 2018

3 – 7 April and late-July / August at London South Bank University

Preliminary auditions will be held in London, Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow and Manchester  
during January 2018.

Recall auditions will be held in London on 17, 18 and 24 February 2018.

British Youth Opera is the UK's premier company for training new and emerging operatic talent.  
It offers valuable opportunities for young singers to receive professional training in all aspects of  
opera through workshops, and to take part in rehearsals and performances in its annual  
Summer Season of opera.

To apply please download an application form from [www.byo.org.uk](http://www.byo.org.uk)

For enquiries please email: [auditions@byo.org.uk](mailto:auditions@byo.org.uk)

Telephone: 020 7815 6090

Application deadline: Monday 11 December 2017

*British Youth Opera is a training organisation; successful candidates do not pay to participate in  
the Summer Season (for which a contribution towards subsistence will be given) or the Opera  
Workshops.*



*The Vanishing Bridegroom, BYO 2017  
(Photographs: Robert Workman)*

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# British Youth Opera

# Auditions



## For the 2018 Summer Season

Rehearsals in London from Monday 16 July  
Performances in London until Saturday 8 September

Possible repertoire to include:

Handel  
Monteverdi  
Stravinsky  
Wolf  
Handel, Vivaldi, Rameau etc

*Alcina*  
*L'incoronazione di Poppea*  
*The Rake's Progress*  
*Der Corregidor*  
*The Enchanted Island* –  
a pastiche devised by Jeremy  
Sams and premiered by the  
Metropolitan Opera in 2011

## and Opera Workshops

Easter and Summer 2018  
3-7 April & late-July / August at London South Bank University

BYO's Workshop programme gives singers an opportunity, in an intimate and closed environment, to explore roles, character, the relationships between text and music, creativity and interpretation without the pressure of performance.

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Preliminary auditions will be held in London, Birmingham, Cardiff, Glasgow and Manchester during January 2018.  
Recall auditions will be held in London on 17, 18 and 24 February 2018.

**Auditionees should prepare three contrasting arias, including one in English (this can be translation). An accompanist will be provided.**

**All applications must be accompanied by a £20.00 payment towards the cost of auditions by bank transfer with a printout of the on-line payment receipt attached to your application form (to account name British Youth Opera, sort code 40-52-40, account number 00019314) or by cheque (payable to British Youth Opera). Payments from candidates who are not selected for an audition will be refunded.**

British Youth Opera is the UK's premier company for training new and emerging operatic talent. It offers valuable opportunities for young singers to receive professional training in all aspects of opera through workshops, and to take part in rehearsals and performances in its annual Summer Season of opera at the Peacock Theatre in London.

**BYO's primary purpose is to offer operatic experience to singers who have a serious aim of pursuing careers in opera performance, are at the start of their careers, and are new to the profession.**

- To that end, in selecting singers for audition, BYO will give preference to applications from singers of any nationality who are studying full-time at a music college in the United Kingdom.
- BYO will also consider applications from singers who are about to start, or who have recently finished, such study in the United Kingdom.
- BYO may, at its discretion, consider applications from other singers resident in the UK, where such applications contain evidence that the applicant has a serious aim of pursuing a career in opera performance, is at the start of his or her career, and is new to the profession.
- All applications must be counter-signed by the applicant's singing teacher or vocal coach, confirming that the applicant would benefit from and is suitable for a training place with BYO.

British Youth Opera is a training organisation; successful candidates do not pay to participate in the Summer Season (for which a contribution towards subsistence will be given) or the Opera Workshops.

Accommodation in London can be provided for a limited number of successful applicants who would otherwise be unable to participate.

British Youth Opera regrets that it is unable to provide feedback on auditions and reserves the right to alter the proposed programme.

# About British Youth Opera

British Youth Opera was founded in 1987 to provide emerging singers on the threshold of their careers with professional rehearsal and performance opportunities. We work to provide the very best training and professional development through an annual programme of workshops and fully staged operas at Sadler's Wells' Peacock Theatre in partnership with Southbank Sinfonia.

Summer Season productions are rehearsed by directors and conductors with a wealth of experience and a particular gift for nurturing and developing emerging talent. Participants are coached in all aspects of their craft with vocal coaching, dialogue, music and language coaching given by leading experts in their respective fields.

This chance to learn from experienced professionals is also offered to assistant directors, conductors, designers, répétiteurs, stage management and other technical trainees.



*Don Giovanni, BYO 2017 (Photographs: Robert Workman)*

Music critics, casting directors and agents regard BYO's Summer Season as an opportunity to view the next generation of professional opera singers.

In the Summer Season productions, singers participate as principals, covers or chorus, or a combination of these:

## **Principals**

Each opera has a single cast of principals who sing at all performances. Rehearsals start with a week of music preparation, working with the conductor, vocal coach, and language coach if appropriate. Production rehearsals then follow for several weeks during which the director, movement director and designer create a production around the company, with continued coaching.

In the final days of rehearsals, the company moves into the theatre for a series of rehearsals on stage with both piano and orchestra, followed by a dress rehearsal in preparation for the first night. There are three performances of each production.

## **Covers (Understudies)**

Each opera has a full cast of covers who sing if a principal is sick and who perform a cover showing of 60 to 75 minutes duration on stage with orchestra. The cover cast is thoroughly rehearsed by the Assistant Conductor and Assistant Director as well as having coaching. Watching the rehearsals with the principal cast during the day, covers have their own rehearsals in the evening, and their own stage rehearsals in the theatre.

## **Chorus**

Rehearsals start with music sessions after which the chorus will work with the production team to create the chorus scenes in the rehearsal room before moving to the theatre.

## **Opera Workshops**

BYO's Opera Workshop programme gives singers an opportunity in an intimate and closed environment to explore roles, character, the relationships between text and music, creativity and interpretation without the pressure of performance. These usually last for five days and numbers are limited so as to ensure the best experience for those involved.

## **Who should apply?**

It is not necessary for singers to have previous stage experience, but they should be receiving regular singing lessons and have a serious interest in pursuing a career in opera.

# Application for Audition 2018

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Photograph

Maximum Size  
4 x 5 cm

Name ..... Height .....

Voice ..... Date of Birth .....

Nationality ..... Town of Birth .....

Email ..... Mobile number .....

Address .....  
I would like to be considered for  
 Opera Workshops 3 - 7 April 2018

Opera Workshops late-July / August 2018

Postcode .....  
I would prefer to be considered as  
 Principal and/or  Understudy and/or  Chorus  
for Summer Season 16 July – 8 September 2018  
*(Please tick where appropriate)*

Please indicate if you would like to be considered for an audition outside London:

Birmingham  Cardiff  Glasgow  Manchester

## Musical training and qualifications or other tertiary education

If currently at college, please give the name of your present course together with starting and finishing dates

Dates	College	Course

Previous courses together with starting and finishing dates


**Musical experience:** You should attach no more than **one single-sided** extra sheet in list form with your name at the top to this application detailing both your opera and concert experience. Further pages will be disregarded.

Current singing teacher: .....  
*(Please note that this is an essential requirement)*

Signature of current teacher of coach: .....

Names of former singing teachers: .....

Applicant's signature: ..... Date: .....

## Please ensure that:

- You have attached a **passport-sized photograph**.
- The form is **signed** by your current singing teacher / coach and by yourself.
- You have attached **one single-sided sheet in list form with your name at the top** detailing your musical experience.
- You have made the £20.00 payment towards audition costs, enclosing a printed receipt of online payment or a cheque.

Forms should be returned by **Monday 11 December** to:  
**Auditions, British Youth Opera, LSBU, 103 Borough Road,  
London SE1 0AA**  
We may not accept applications received after this date.

# Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

*Please print on a separate sheet*

British Youth Opera is committed to a policy of equality of opportunity and to making this policy properly effective. Selection criteria and procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure that individuals are selected on the basis of their abilities.

To ensure that our equal opportunity policy is effective we carry out monitoring of applicants, and we would like you to answer the questions below. This information is confidential, will be kept completely separate from your application form and will be used to compile anonymous statistical information only. You should return this form with your application form.

**Gender:**             Male             Female

**Cultural Diversity**

Please tick the ethnic category that best represents you. Your ethnic category is a mixture of culture, religion, skin colour, language and the origins of yourself and your family. It is not the same as nationality.

- White**  
 British  
 Irish  
 Other, please state: .....

- Asian or Asian British**  
 Asian Bangladeshi  
 Asian India  
 Asian Pakistani  
 Other, please state: .....

- Black or Black British**  
 Black African  
 Black Caribbean  
 Other, please state: .....

- Other ethnic group**  
 Chinese  
 Other, please state: .....

- Dual Heritage:**  
 Dual Asian & White  
 Dual Black African & White  
 Dual Black Caribbean & White  
 Dual Chinese & White  
 Other, please state: .....

- Other, please state:** .....

**Do you have dependents?** (Dependents might include children, the elderly, or other people who rely on you for care)  
 Yes             No

**Do you consider yourself to have a disability?**  
 Yes             No

**If yes, please state the nature of your disability:** .....

.....

NB. If your disability means that you require any adjustments to be made in order to participate in our selection process, please give us details so that we can accommodate your needs.

**Thank you for providing this information.**