

if opera

23 – 31 AUGUST 2024

**LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR
DIE FLEDERMAUS
PICNIC PROM
CHILDREN'S CONCERT**

**BELCOMBE COURT, BRADFORD ON AVON
IFOPERA.COM**





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We are an Award Winning contemporary architecture studio specialising in the design of bespoke, environmentally conscious homes



“House for a Violinist is a contemporary insertion and a careful renovation to a grade II listed building. This is a project that starts with music and takes form through the desire to create spaces of gathering and performance arranged vertically.”



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Studio Bacchus - 24 Silver Street - Bradford on Avon - BA15 1JZ - 07971541773

WELCOME TO IF OPERA 2024 BEAUTIFUL MUSIC IN EXTRAORDINARY PLACES

After two seasons, If Opera has acclaimed productions to its name and a reputation for artistic excellence, with a focus on supporting emerging artists and enriching the local community. Our approach is to offer spectacular opera in an informal and welcoming setting, in unique venues, seeking out diverse, exciting talent.

We work with an equitable repertory ensemble system that offers employment and opportunity to the most talented professionals, and nurtures the stars of the future. Our festival entices some of the best musicians and singers to the South West and this year is no exception.

In our 2024 programme, we bring two of the greatest operas in the repertoire to the stage, together with the popular picnic prom and our children’s concert.



Be part of it

If you become a member of If Opera you’ll enjoy priority booking and member pricing together with a whole range of benefits aimed at enriching your experience and giving you a unique insight into the creative process.

Visit ifopera.com/support-us for more details.



With thanks to our principal partner:



LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR

Gaetano Donizetti

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

23, 27, 29, 31 August

Belcombe Court, Bradford on Avon

Conductor Oliver Gooch
Director Thomas Guthrie
Designer Ruth Paton
With the Bristol Ensemble and If Opera chorus

For cast list please visit ifopera.com



Madly in love...

One of the most revered of 19th century operas, *Lucia di Lammermoor* follows the fortunes of Lucia (Lucy Ashton) sister of the Lord of Lammermoor, and the enmity they have for the Ravenswood family. Lucia is in love with Edgardo of the Ravenswoods, but her brother Enrico, has other plans for her matrimony.

The opera is a gothic thriller, complete with ghostly apparitions, duels and acts of revenge. But it has become most famous for the elongated, so-called 'mad scene' in which Lucia, having murdered her imposed husband Arturo, embarks on one of the most challenging and thrilling arias in the entire repertoire, 'Il dolce suono'.

To project Donizetti's beautiful music to full advantage, we have reconfigured the

seating so that the audience surrounds the stage, creating an immersive experience for this most powerful of dramas.

With a stellar cast directed by Thomas Guthrie, an innovative and award-winning British director, and conducted by Oliver Gooch, *Lucia di Lammermoor* is the magnificent centrepiece of the If Opera 2024 season.

'The intimacy of the setting puts everything into dangerously sharp focus'

Join us and enjoy Belcombe Court's beautiful gardens with your picnic and a drink at our pop-up bar.

TICKETS

£20.00 – £115.00 Members
£20.00 – £120.00 Non members

Under 18s go free (limited availability)
Children 12+ welcome

5:00pm Gates open
7:00pm Performance starts
9:45pm Approximate end

No dogs except for assistance dogs

DIE FLEDERMAUS

Johann Strauss II

Sung in English with surtitles

24, 28 August

Belcombe Court, Bradford on Avon

Conductor Thomas Blunt
Director/Narrator Simon Butteriss
With the Bristol Ensemble and If Opera chorus

For cast list please visit ifopera.com



A farcical story fizzing with disguises...

In the repertoire of opera houses throughout Europe, certain operettas have lost none of their sparkle. Chief among them is Johann Strauss's effervescent *Die Fledermaus*, with its seemingly endless parade of gorgeous melodies and stirring waltzes. The opera is a whirlwind of romantic ruses, false identities, practical jokes, infidelities, confusions and Champagne.

This is a Fledermaus with a difference. In this specially staged and costumed performance, comic genius Simon Butteriss replaces the operetta's original

spoken dialogue with a racy and pacy narration that follows every twist and turn of this ludicrous tale. Witty, clever and with knowing nods to the present day, it is delivered with Butteriss' customary flamboyance and panache. This unique presentation is "in short, the perfect blend of Viennese Schlagobers and English salt" (The Times) and not to be missed!

Gather your friends, bring a picnic or raise a glass at our bar in the magical grounds of Belcombe Court.

**'We had an amazing first visit, it was lovely.
The cast, the voices, the orchestra and staff were fabulous.'**

TICKETS

£35.00 – £95.00 Members
£40.00 – £100.00 Non members

Under 18s go free (limited availability)
Children 7+ welcome

5:00pm Gates open
7:00pm Performance starts
9:15pm Approximate end

No dogs except for assistance dogs

Book online at ifopera.com or call Bath Box Office 01225 463 362

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ROALD DAHL'S LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Children's Concert (Musical Version)

25 August

Belcombe Court, Bradford on Avon

Music by Paul Patterson

Text adapted from Roald Dahl's *Revolting Rhymes*
by Donald Sturrock

*Wolves aren't always as clever
as they think they are...*

Little Red Riding Hood, from Roald Dahl's wicked *Revolting Rhymes*, is brought to life in this sparkling musical adaptation by composer Paul Patterson. Join the Bristol Ensemble's wind quintet and piano on a magical narrated journey through the Enchanted Forest with our heroine, Little Red Riding Hood, and one slightly dim wolf, whose dastardly deeds are thwarted at every turn by a cast of quirky characters. Although ideal for 4- to 11-year olds, it is also a sharply funny and inspiring treat for adults too. Soprano and vocal amateur Lynsey Docherty narrates this hilarious twist on the fairy-tale classic. It's a short burst of pure magic that never fails to entertain, and a wonderful way to introduce

budding musicians to the instruments of the orchestra.

Bring a picnic to enjoy before the show, treat yourself to an ice cream from Garbanzo's and go on your own fairy tale adventure as you explore the secret pathways, hidden grotto and landscaped lawns of Belcombe Court's glorious gardens.

In addition to our Festival, each year If Opera introduces younger audiences to the wonder of opera by taking participatory workshops and performances to schools across Wiltshire and Somerset. If you'd like to know more, please visit ifopera.com

"The concert was one of the highlights of our summer!"

TICKETS

£11.00 - £19.00

Most suitable for ages 4-11 years old

Children under 3 go free when sharing a seat

Approximate running time: 45 minutes

No dogs except for assistance dogs

Performance 1 at 2:00pm

Gardens open for exploring and picnics at 12:45pm

Performance 2 at 4:30pm

BSL Interpreted and relaxed performance

Gardens open for exploring and picnics at 3:15pm



IF OPERA PICNIC PROM

26 August

Belcombe Court, Bradford on Avon

JTQ – THE JAMES TAYLOR QUARTET

Led by Hammond organ guru, James Taylor, JTQ stands with one foot planted in 2024, and the other, just as firmly, somewhere south of the 1970s. For more than 35 years The James Taylor Quartet have set the standard for the coolest sounds in funky jazz and have quietly become a byword for distinguished British creativity.

Featuring an expanded 6-piece line-up, including the incredible vocal talents of Yvonne Yanney, JTQ are perhaps best known and best loved for their unrivalled live performances – so don't miss this opportunity to witness a true British music institution, live in concert.

Emma Smith – An Evening of Joyful Jazz

Emma has performed in venues ranging from the O2 Arena to the leading jazz clubs of New York City, as well as collaborating and recording with the likes of Michael Bublé, The Quincy Jones Orchestra and Robbie Williams. She will be appearing with her own world-class trio of musicians: expect a wonderfully eclectic, but most of all fun, evening of world-class jazz.

TICKETS

£48.00

Children 11+ welcome

5:00pm

5:30pm

6:30pm

9/9:15pm

Gates open for picnics

Garden music

Main bands

End

No dogs except for assistance dogs



"The best Hammond player
this side of the Atlantic"

Craig Charles, BBC6



POP UP BAR & PICNIC

Bring your party picnic and visit our pop-up bar – relax with a drink in hand while music fills the air or explore the secret pathways and hidden nooks of the magnificent grounds, rarely open to the public.



Book online at ifopera.com or call Bath Box Office 01225 463 362

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Making your memories last a lifetime!

We are Travel Options 4U. A family run team of independent travel specialists located right in the centre of Bradford on Avon. With over 120 years of experience combined throughout the office we take great pride & enjoyment in creating the perfect holiday itineraries for our clients. Whether it is a family holiday, city break, cruise or long haul holiday, anything travel, we do it. Our ultimate goal is to work alongside you to create unforgettable experiences.

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SUPPORT US

Join If Opera today and enjoy member pricing and more for the 2024 festival and beyond...

If Opera is a not-for-profit charitable organisation with a focus on supporting emerging artists and improving the way opera works, so that more people can enjoy its wonder. With your support, we can continue to create sensational experiences for our audiences, community and industry.

Become a member from £85 per year, and enjoy priority booking and member pricing, as well as invitations to exclusive member events.

Support us with philanthropic giving from £600 per year, and take advantage of member ticket pricing and priority booking, as well as a range of benefits designed to enhance your visits to If Opera alongside access to special events throughout the year.

Visit ifopera.com to find out more

HOW TO BOOK

ONLINE / BY PHONE

Please visit www.ifopera.com or call Bath Box Office on 01225 463 362.

IN PERSON

Bath Box Office, 1A Forum Buildings, Bath, BA1 1UG.

Open 10am – 5pm, Monday to Friday (closed bank holidays).

GETTING TO BELCOMBE COURT

Belcombe Court, Belcombe Road, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1LZ.

Wherever possible, we urge you to use public transport or car share to reduce the traffic pressure on this historic town.

Accessibility

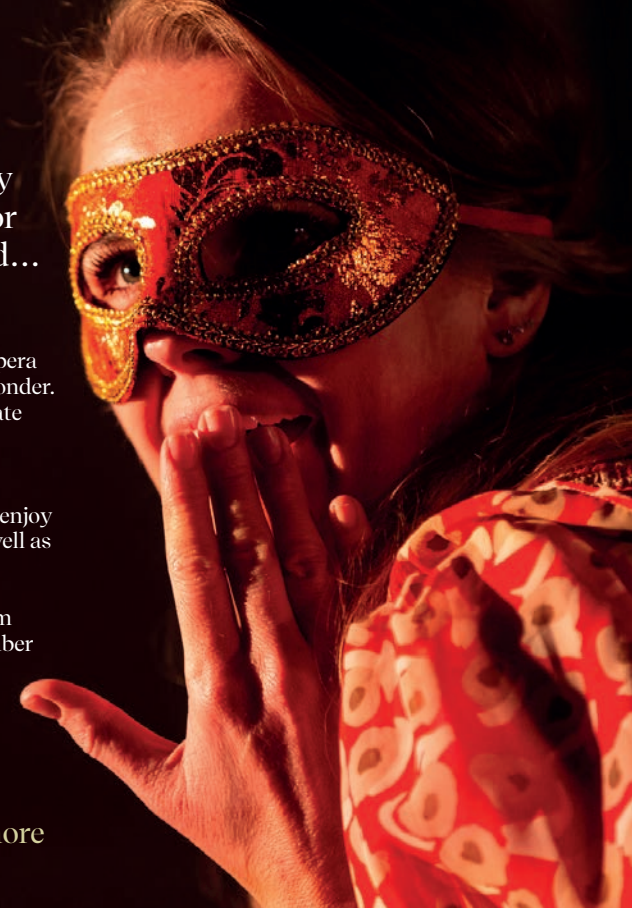
Our auditorium is accessible for wheelchairs. If you, or any member of your party require particular seating or have access needs, please inform Bath Box Office when booking your tickets to ensure we reserve the correct seating area for you.

Venue Information

Our purpose-built theatre is fully covered and events go ahead whatever the weather. Guests are welcome to bring picnics, tables and chairs or rugs. There are limited sheltered areas if the weather is wet.

FOR MORE INFORMATION TO HELP PLAN YOUR VISIT PLEASE VISIT IFOPERA.COM

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The extraordinary **C1 Bel Canto** isn't just a feast for the eyes, but the ears, too. Powered by our ingenious FS01 movement, every 60 minutes a 'hammer' strikes a chime to mark the hour (what the Swiss call a 'Sonnerie au Passage' complication). The Grade-5 titanium case improves the resonance and tone of the chime, and also ensures lightness and durability, while the intricately polished and stacked dial plays host to a time-telling subdial. Want to know more?

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