

# Annual Review

## 2016/2017



We are delighted to present our annual review of the past Season in the life of Welsh National Opera. This provides a glimpse into the Company's achievements during the 2016/2017 Season and a flavour of the character of the national opera company of Wales. One that is: bold in its artistic ambition; at the heart of its local communities and at home on the world's stage; nurturing of young talent and a springboard for international careers; and, outward-looking and forward-thinking in our championing of opera for all.

Here we provide a snapshot of the quality and diversity of our work over the past year and show how opera continues to transform lives in so many different ways.

Mark Molyneux WNO Chairman

In Summer 2017 we launched Magic Butterfly, an immersive Virtual Reality (VR) experience that allowed audiences to step inside two classic WNO productions – *Madam Butterfly* and *The Magic Flute*. The free experience was uniquely presented in a WNO custom-made 30ft shipping container and started its journey outside Wales Millennium Centre before visiting other locations across England and Wales during our Autumn 2017 Season.

**What our visitors said...**

'Loved the experience, brilliant way to combine old tradition with new technology'

'What a fantastic way to introduce opera'

'It was INCREDIBLE! Truly fantastic!'

Sponsored by Associated British Ports (ABP South Wales), the launch of **Magic Butterfly** marked our 30 year partnership with the Company.

'This is the thirtieth year of ABP supporting WNO and we are very happy to have been involved in this innovative and imaginative project to mark our special anniversary. Combining technology with opera housed in a shipping container that moves around the country presents a great opportunity for us to support making the arts more accessible to different audiences.'

**Matthew Kennerley** Regional Director, ABP South Wales

'Opera has been a prime vehicle for technological as well as artistic innovation for over 400 years. So it is notable that Magic Butterfly is the first ever UK VR operatic venture to use the technology to create a piece of art that stands independently.'

**Steph Power** Opera Now

**3,250** people have experienced **Magic Butterfly** so far  
Aged 13 – 90+

Magic Butterfly trailer ▶

**MAGIC  
BUTTERFLY**



#WNOmagicbutterfly



# Creating

The 2016/2017 season was again one which found WNO performing at the top of its game. The Shakespeare 400 Season in the autumn highlighted an extraordinary discovery of an important new Shakespeare Opera – *The Merchant of Venice*. In the Spring, our incomparable Chorus was featured in an intense and moving realisation of Frank Martin's masterpiece *Le Vin herbé* – an event for which The Spectator awarded us with the sobriquet: 'Britain's boldest opera company.'

In the summer of 2017 we had the first two operas to be conducted by our new Music Director, Tomáš Hanus 🎵 and both turned out to be a total triumph for him, the WNO Orchestra, and the Company. In particular, *Der Rosenkavalier* was an extremely intelligent production executed with extraordinary panache and detail by cast and orchestra under Tomáš's leadership. There will have been few better opera performances in 2017 than these.

And most importantly, these performances of intense artistic excellence are spread across England and Wales, and are echoed and supported by imaginative and far reaching education and outreach programmes. Welsh National Opera brings excellence to all the regions and communities it touches, not least including far flung international venues such as Dubai and Hong Kong.

**David Pountney** WNO Artistic Director





**115** large scale performances in **11** towns and cities across Wales, England and the World

**4** new productions **1,495** mentions in the press, UK & internationally **101** four or five star ratings in print and online reviews **9** awards shortlists

'Without a doubt one of the most wonderful experiences of my career! I love you, WNO!'

**Luis Cansino** *Macbeth, Macbeth*

'I was extremely grateful to have very supportive colleagues both in the cast, and in the Company more generally throughout my time with WNO.'

**Gareth Brynmor John** Recipient of WNO Sir John Moores Award, *Schaunard, La bohème*

'The friendliness of the people working at WNO across the board – the management, stage crew, chorus and so on creates an ideal atmosphere for great artistic work. The quality of the productions I've been involved in is always excellent – I'm looking forward to future productions!'

**Miklós Sebestyén** *The Duke of Venice, The Merchant of Venice*

'The sumptuous music, played with obvious delight by the WNO Orchestra under the ebullient direction of conductor Tomáš Hanus, sweeps over the audience like a refreshing breeze.'

**The Western Mail** on *Die Fledermaus*

'A production that makes a claim for the piece to be more than a musical curiosity.'

**British Theatre Guide** on *The Merchant of Venice*

'WNO's *Madam Butterfly* is opera at its traditional best.' **The reviews hub**

'All praise, first, goes to WNO's new Music Director, the Czech-born Tomáš Hanus, appointed last year. If everything he does is as good, the company has cause to smile. Here he kept a deft balance between exuberance – horns whooping in noisy vulgarity, harps and celesta sweetly viscid – and essential rigour.'

**The Observer** on *Der Rosenkavalier*

#### Revivals

**La bohème**  
**Madam Butterfly**

#### New Productions

**Macbeth**  
**The Merchant of Venice**  
**Kiss Me, Kate**  
**Der Rosenkavalier**  
**Le Vin herbé**

Over 100,000 people attended a large scale WNO production over the course of 2016/2017, with over half of those being first-time attenders. Our Under 30s £10 tickets continue to be a roaring success with more young people than ever taking advantage of the offer.

**4,782**

under 30s tickets sold

@csbrasnett @WNOtweet hit **Rosenkavalier out of the park this afternoon, and great u30s programme to boot – housemate just enjoyed his first opera!**

**123,593**

total audience for large scale productions and concert performances

**14,837** first time bookers (53% of all bookers)



Technology is transforming the way we experience the world. We believe that opera doesn't just belong in the theatre – it can be enjoyed online, in the cinema, in newly created digital spaces. But we must also not forget the things that make our art form what it is – music, drama, the people. We must find a balance: embracing the future whilst still remembering our heritage.

# 9,066

viewings of *Le Vin herbé* on The Opera Platform and Arte Concert, so far

'The piece makes virtuoso demands on its choral narrators – this is why it is such an exciting choice for WNO – whose stellar Chorus in recent years have made their own devised show (*Chorus!*) and taken on pieces such as *William Tell* and *Moses und Aron*.'

**Polly Graham** Director

In Spring, WNO brought the rarely-staged production of *Le Vin herbé* to life and it was received with great public and critical acclaim. Directed by Polly Graham who previously worked with WNO for two years as Genesis Assistant Director, the production was seen by a total of 3,351 people across England and Wales. However, the opera reached and continues to reach a large audience through the groundbreaking websites, The Opera Platform and Arte Concert.

Our digital audience has continued to grow through 2016/2017, allowing us to keep telling the WNO story in more ways, to more people than ever before.

★★★★★ The Guardian  
★★★★★ The Stage  
★★★★★ The Telegraph  
★★★★★ The Independent

*Le Vin herbé* nominated for 'Achievement in Opera' category of the UK Theatre Awards

**43,246** Total social media audience

**199,136** Visits to our website

**109,300** YouTube views

'sublimely sung... a vividly poignant marriage of music and theatre'

**The Independent** on *Le Vin herbé*



Autumn 2016 was the start of an exciting journey for Welsh National Opera as the Company announced the appointment of new Music Director, **Tomáš Hanus**. Tomáš is recognised as one of the world's most exciting and important conductors and in his first year with WNO he certainly didn't disappoint.

Hanus made his first appearance as Music Director one to remember when he conducted the WNO Orchestra, Chorus and Community Chorus in Mahler's Resurrection Symphony as part of the International Concert Series at Cardiff's St David's Hall in October 2016.

'We have much to look forward to in the future with Tomáš. One could feel the palpitations in the room after the performance.'

**Huw Lewis** WNO Partner

Welsh National Opera's roots lie in members of the community coming together driven by their love of song. WNO Community Chorus welcomed adult amateur singers of all ages and backgrounds from across Wales (and over the border) to come and take part in this unforgettable concert with WNO, and be part of our WNO community

And his operatic debut this summer was no exception, with fantastically received performances of *Der Rosenkavalier* and *Die Fledermaus*.

Tomáš looks forward to spending as much time as possible in Cardiff and introducing the Welsh capital to his family.

'He and his terrific orchestra don't miss a trick in a reading that is sumptuous and expansive as well as vivacious and witty...It seldom gets better than this.'

**The Telegraph**

'Already it looks like a good match, the WNO Orchestra played with superb muscularity and finesse under purposeful direction.'

**The Times**

'Both *Die Fledermaus* and *Der Rosenkavalier* brought a great energy to the whole company (which the audiences clearly felt). The Orchestra and chorus understood the very distinctive musical style of each composer. *Der Rosenkavalier* is one the most difficult operas for an orchestra – our musicians played brilliantly.'

**Tomáš Hanus** WNO Music Director

**Meet Tomáš Hanus** ▶

'...fiery and fabulous tribute to Mahler' **The Guardian** ★★★★★



WNO has an extensive concert programme, running alongside our large scale opera performances. Our Orchestra and Chorus sit at the heart of the Company and travel the length and breadth of the UK, as well as enjoying a deserved international reputation.

Their stature as world-class ensembles in their own right is demonstrated by distinguished involvement in the International Concert Series at St David's Hall Cardiff where the WNO Orchestra sits as a cornerstone of the programme.

WNO Orchestra and Chorus regularly tour in Wales and England and have become one of the most versatile orchestral ensembles in the UK.

'I enjoy the variety of the orchestra – one week we'll be in the pit, the next on stage, the next in schools or performing a family concert, the next being directed by our leader David Adams in our 'self-drive' concerts.'

**Lowri Porter** Assistant Leader, WNO Orchestra

**16,088**

people saw WNO  
in concert across

**9** different  
venues



Lowri Porter and WNO Orchestra at the Family Concert. Photo by Kirsten McTernan

# Reaching out

We are Welsh National Opera and we are proud to represent Wales on a local, national and international stage. We strive to bring opera to all, with our work appearing worldwide, either with our partner venues or collaborations with other opera companies and concert venues.

Miles covered on tour:

**41,006**

## Where we've performed...

England	Wales
Birmingham Hippodrome	Aberystwyth
Bristol Hippodrome	Anglesey
Liverpool Empire	Bangor
London, Royal Opera House	Caernarfon
Milton Keynes Theatre	Cardiff, Wales Millennium Centre & St David's Hall
Oxford New Theatre	Cilgerran
Plymouth Theatre Royal	Conwy
Southampton Mayflower Theatre	Fishguard
	Flintshire
	Kinmel Bay
United Arab Emirates	Llandudno Venue Cymru
Dubai Opera	Llangollen
	Mold
	Newtown
	Swansea
	Wrexham

## Who we've collaborated with...

England
Leeds, Opera North
Surrey, Grange Park Opera
Northern Ireland
Belfast, Northern Ireland Opera
Greece
Greek National Opera, Athens
Germany
Theater Magdeburg, Magdeburg
Italy
Haydn Foundation, Bolzano
Poland
Teatr Wielki, Poznan, Warsaw
Switzerland
Theater St Gallen, St Gallen
Australia
State Opera of South Australia



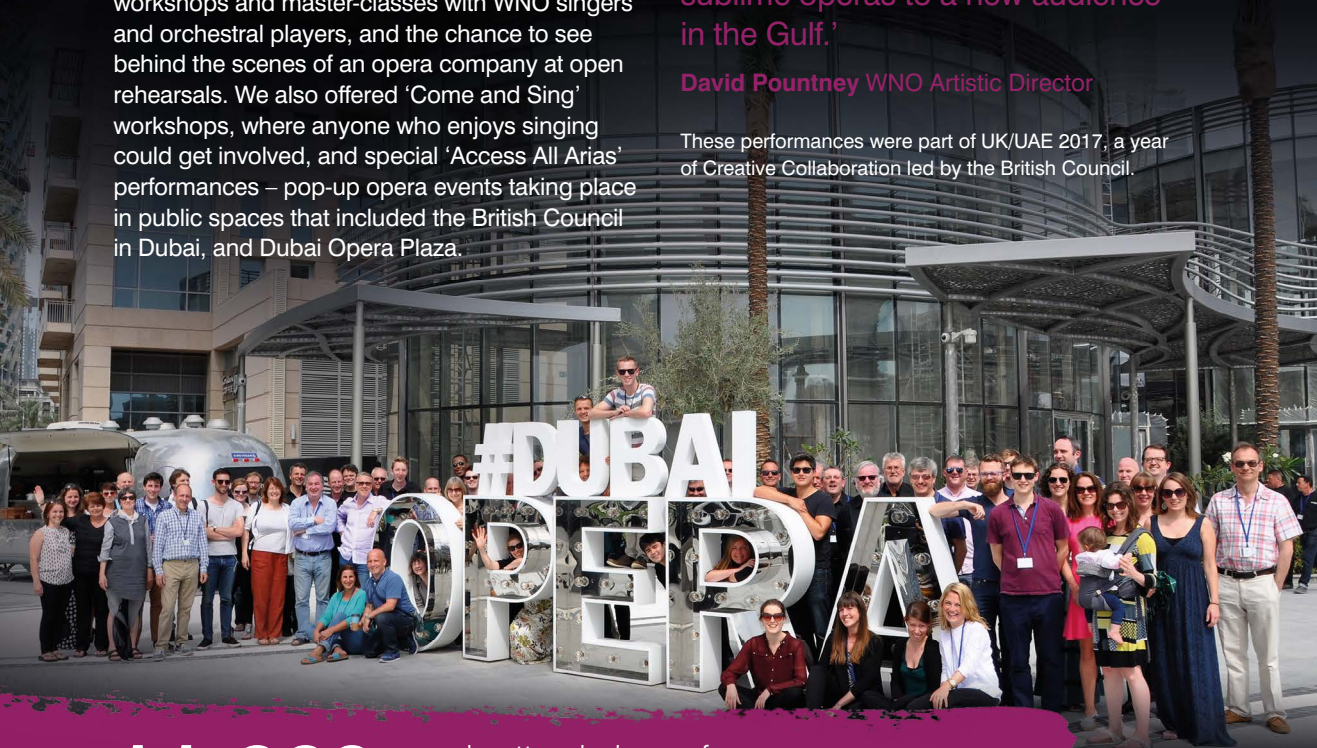
## Spreading the WNO magic worldwide

In March 2017 Welsh National Opera travelled to the United Arab Emirates, supported by Welsh Government and University of South Wales, to be part of the opening season of Dubai Opera. As well as performing *La bohème* and *Madam Butterfly* to packed out crowds, our Youth & Community team engaged people both young and old through: workshops and master-classes with WNO singers and orchestral players, and the chance to see behind the scenes of an opera company at open rehearsals. We also offered 'Come and Sing' workshops, where anyone who enjoys singing could get involved, and special 'Access All Arias' performances – pop-up opera events taking place in public spaces that included the British Council in Dubai, and Dubai Opera Plaza.

'It is an enormous privilege for WNO to have taken part in the inaugural season of the magnificent Dubai Opera House. We carry the passionate and emotional musicianship of Wales around the world, and it was a special honour to be entrusted with bringing the wonderful qualities of Puccini's sublime operas to a new audience in the Gulf.'

David Pountney WNO Artistic Director

These performances were part of UK/UAE 2017, a year of Creative Collaboration led by the British Council.



**11,660** people attended a performance or took part in activities, ages 7+

Workshops and activities with **12** local schools. Over **1,000** young people welcomed to dress rehearsals

'I am sure your unforgettable performances in Dubai will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of the 2017 UK/UAE Year of Creative Collaboration. WNO are truly a world class arts organisation and an excellent cultural ambassador for Wales.'

Lesley Griffiths Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs

WNO Orchestra in Dubai

# Inspiring

We are committed to introducing young people to what we do. May 2017 saw the return of our hugely successful **family concert** at St David's Hall, Cardiff. Compèred by Wynne Evans and conducted by James Southall, we welcomed children and their families to experience opera and classical music, many for the first time.

The concerts help to make our art form more accessible to the next generation through audience interaction, familiar musical favourites, pre-show activities and affordable ticket prices for the whole family. We look forward to doing more family concerts across Wales and England next year.

**1,896** attended our Family Concert

'A huge thank you. It was the first proper introduction to classical music for my children, and they were amazed and delighted.'

WNO Family Concert Audience Member

### Audience tweets:

'Totally brilliant #WNOfamily concert @WNOtweet @stdavidshall showing how accessible classical music & opera can be'

'Thoroughly enjoyed #WNOfamily concert with @WNOtweet. Great way for children to be exposed to classical music. @wynneevans was hysterical!'



Photo by Kirsten McTernan



There is a lot to learn from opera. In addition to learning about making and composing music, this art form helps raise confidence and interpersonal skills, team working and enhances many other areas of a child's learning. By embedding opera into the schools we work with, WNO has enabled music to become a regular and integrated part of the children's life and learning.

The Hodge Foundation has enabled WNO's schools and special schools work to grow significantly since September 2015, pledging 5 years of support to enable this programme to develop over the long-term in Cardiff.

WNO delivered our **Digital Teach** project in Birmingham schools, focusing on *Kiss Me, Kate* and working with 200 Year 5 pupils from primary schools that are based in very diverse areas with limited access to the arts.

In Autumn 2016 WNO delivered **Opera Engage** for the third year, in partnership with the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton, which saw 75 young people create new work inspired by our autumn production of *Kiss Me, Kate*; providing opportunities to develop their creative talents and wider range of skills either as a hobby or in preparation for a future career in the arts.

**Kiss Me, Kate Digital Teach video** ▶

'As a school we see music as a tool which helps children to prepare for the 21st century. Communicating through music allows children to express themselves with confidence. Working with WNO the children have learnt to empathise with different cultures whilst learning to appreciate their own heritage. Music helps children become more confident and collaborative citizens. It's one of the strongest cultural tools we have.'

**Helen Jones** Deputy Headteacher,  
Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon

**46**

Schools

**39**

new schools  
this year across  
England and  
Wales

**7-16**

years old

**492**

children attended the *Kiss Me, Kate*  
Dress Rehearsal, aged 9 – 16  
**14** schools involved

We believe that opera should be easily accessible to young people of all social and economic backgrounds. In Autumn 2016 WNO welcomed schoolchildren to the dress rehearsal of *Kiss Me, Kate*. Prior to joining us at the Wales Millennium Centre, we went into 14 different schools to deliver workshops on the production.

'Everyone thoroughly enjoyed both workshop and performance and I'm sure that it will be remembered for years to come!'

**Christopher Newcombe** Headteacher,  
Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch, Cardiff

For many this was a first time experience of opera, but one that has planted a seed and given an appetite for the art form in the future.

**10,459**

total number of Come & Sing participants

We encourage the public to come together and sing with WNO. No previous singing experience required. Everyone is welcome.

**1,595**

joined in with CânSing  
in Wrexham, Llandudno  
and Cardiff

**20,000**

children downloaded CânSing  
resources last year, which included  
2 new pieces created in partnership  
with Welsh National Opera

**45,143**

people engaged or participated in our  
Youth & Community work

We are embedding WNO into our communities, creating work that has meaning and relevance; making opera a part of everyday life.



We are the opera company of Wales and this year we made a commitment to be present in more places – starting with a permanent programme of activity in North Wales, led by WNO Youth & Community Producer, Ruth Evans based at Venue Cymru in Llandudno.

As we make a home in the North Wales community, we have begun to develop existing relationships, establish new ones (including a new Community Chorus) and collectively make a significant impact on the region. This is an ongoing commitment as we aim to integrate WNO into more communities across the places we visit.

**North Wales organisations partnered with –** CànSing; Venue Cymru, Llandudno; Theatr Clwyd, Mold; Pontio Arts Centre, Bangor; Galeri Caernarfon; Theatr Colwyn; NEW Sinfonia; Tenovus Sing with Us Cancer Choir; Canu Conwy; William Mathias Music Service

'We want our funding to help build engagement with culture in areas of the UK where there is lower provision. We have supported Welsh National Opera's work with communities in Wales for a number of years and were keen to help them use their experience to work in a new way in areas of North Wales where they have previously had limited engagement. This is not just about finding new audiences for opera – it's about encouraging people to take part and find their own voices, as well as helping to strengthen the network of arts organisations in North Wales.'

**Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**

**12,000+**

participants across  
North Wales projects  
Ages 7 to 90+

Photo by Kristina Banholzer

# Nurturing

'We are grateful that the WNO Youth Opera members have such attentive support and are surrounded by such professionals; people that seem ready to recognize and appreciate talent, and find ways to pass it along.'

**Youth Opera Parent**

The future of Opera lies with the next generation and this is why we are so committed to nurturing talented young artists and continue to create and produce opera which is written for and performed by young people.

**WNO Youth Opera** provides a platform for aspiring artists to develop professionally through hard work and dedication. It continues to offer ambitious repertoire for young singers, whilst providing year round professional training and performance opportunities, designed to take young talent to the next stage of their careers. Youth Opera worked with around 250 singers aged between 10 and 25 years from across the UK throughout 2016/2017 – with groups being full to capacity.

Our **Associate Artist** scheme continues to identify young singers and develops their talent as their career begins. Our Associate Artists work on mainscale productions, recitals and concerts

Photo by Kirsten McTernan

meaning they engage in the full breadth of the Company's work. This year Anna Harvey became our WNO Associate Artist who has since then covered roles in both Summer 2017 large scale productions. Autumn 2017 sees Anna perform the role of Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*.

'10 new members have joined WNO Youth Opera as a result of our schools programme this year. We have offered talented students from local schools the opportunity to be involved, with WNO taking care of any additional expenses. This approach ensures that Opera and singing opportunities continue to be accessible to all young people.'

**Paula Scott** WNO Youth Opera Producer

'Getting to see new places, sing in new theatres and enjoy the audience reactions and the buzz of being on stage. So thank you so much to everyone at WNO – I am having a brilliant time!'

**Anna Harvey** WNO Associate Artist



'We were made to feel hugely welcome by our hosts, with everyone from Wardrobe to Company Office through to Wigs and the WNO Orchestra themselves doing everything they could to accommodate us, making everything as easy and fun as possible.'

**Benjamin Lewis** National Opera Studio Young Artist

**To guarantee the future relevance of opera, we have to invest today. That's why we not only develop remarkable talent ourselves, but also keep our relationships with others in the industry strong to nurture the best young talent.**

We are committed to offering young musicians opportunities to participate in our side-by-side mentoring scheme, through rehearsals and performance programmes with students. This activity has been taking place through partnerships with the **Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama**, the **Birmingham Conservatoire** and a new relationship with **Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance** in Greenwich.

Our Autumn 2016 concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff brought unique opportunities for young orchestral talent. String students from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama played with the WNO Orchestra, an amazing experience they'll never forget – another example of our close relationship with the College.

Welsh National Opera enjoys a longstanding relationship with **The National Opera Studio**, another organisation with an international reputation for developing the best operatic talent. Each year, NOS Young Artists are invited to spend a week with the Company, culminating in a performance on the stage at Wales Millennium Centre alongside the WNO Orchestra.

Photo by Kirsten McTernan

Collaboration is at the heart of what we do and this extends far beyond the world of opera. We believe that by working together in partnership, with a shared vision of excellence, we not only enhance our work, but those we work with as well.

# Partnering

We have continued to nurture our valued partnerships, in the arts, business, education and community sectors throughout 2016/2017. These enrich the Company in so many different ways. Our sustainability and stability are ensured by core funding provided by the Arts Council of Wales, Arts Council England and also by the generosity of all the organisations and individuals who show unstinting support to the Company. These relationships and investments are vital to the life of WNO and all play an essential part in making the Company as diverse, rich and vibrant as it is today.

**Leonora Thomson**  
WNO Managing Director

Photo by Kirsten McTernan





Established in 1984 as the in-house workshops for Welsh National Opera, Cardiff Theatrical Services (CTS) has a reputation for building outstanding quality scenery for some of the World's leading performing arts companies, visitor attractions and exhibitions.

### During 2016/2017 CTS provided services for many different organisations

Ambassador Theatre Group, Attingham Hall, BBC, Chester Performing Arts Centre, Chichester Festival Theatre, English National Opera, English Touring Opera, Fotogallery, Glyndebourne, Guildhall School of Music, Houston Grand Opera, Impossible Productions, Leicester Curve, Mint Motion, Music Theatre Wales, National Dance Company Wales, National Theatre, National Theatre Wales, Oxford Playhouse, Royal Horticultural Society, Royal Opera House, Royal Shakespeare Company, Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Sheffield Theatres, Duke of York Theatre, South Bank, Underbelly, Wales Millennium Centre, Young Vic.

### Co-productions in 2016/2017

**Macbeth** Northern Ireland Opera, Belfast, UK

**The Merchant of Venice** Bregenzer Festspiele, Austria; Adam Mickiewicz Institute as part of the Polska music programme; and Teatr Wielki, Warsaw, Poland

**Kiss Me, Kate** Opera North, Leeds, UK

**Le Vin herbé** Theater St Gallen, St Gallen, Switzerland

**Der Rosenkavalier** Theater Magdeburg, Magdeburg, Germany

### Production hires

**Figaro Gets a Divorce** Teatr Wielki, Poznan, Poland

**Tosca** State Opera of South Australia

**Jenůfa** Grange Park Opera, Surrey, UK

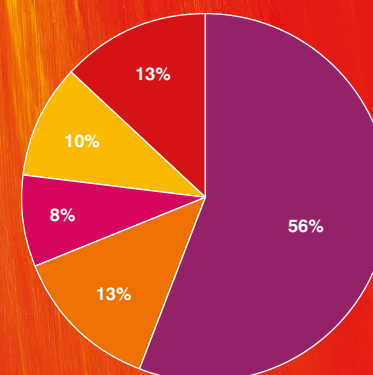
**Lohengrin** Greek National Opera, Athens

**A Christmas Carol** Haydn Foundation, Bolzano, Italy

**5 co-productions performed and presented by WNO**

Jeni Bern (Lilli Vanessi and Katharine) and Quirijn de Lang (Fred Graham and Petruccio). WNO's *Kiss Me, Kate* photo by Richard Hubert Smith

Year after year we produce great opera and year after year we are committed to being exceptional value for money and ensuring that we stretch every pound of public investment as far as possible. We work tirelessly to supplement this income with ticket sales, fundraising and production hires, among other commercial activity.

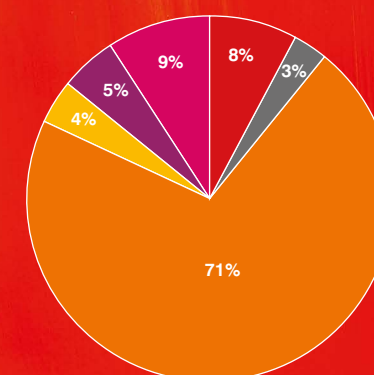


### Income

- Grants from ACE and ACW
- Box office income
- Fundraising
- Cardiff Theatrical Services – sets for third parties
- Other earned income

'We are proud to support WNO which, in 2016/17, reaffirmed its ability to hold, develop and challenge audiences with a mix of sure-fire favourites and less familiar repertoire. Alongside vital revivals of *La bohème* and *Madam Butterfly*, we've had the bold and chorus-featuring rarity *Le Vin herbé* and the Viennese masterpiece, *Der Rosenkavalier*. Two areas gave me particular pleasure: the stunning form of the orchestra under Tomáš Hanus, in the pit and on concert platforms, and the exciting achievements of WNO Youth Opera as typified in *Kommilitonen!* (June 2016) – an encouraging moment in the journey to broadening opera's appeal and reach.'

**Phil George**  
Chair, Arts Council of Wales



### Expenditure

- Support costs
- Fundraising costs
- Opera
- Marketing costs
- Youth & Community costs
- Cardiff Theatrical Services – sets for third parties

'Welsh National Opera has a reputation for excellence, and is increasingly reaching out to communities in both England and Wales. They play an important part in our cultural life and we're delighted to continue supporting them and see our funding creating new opportunities for a wider range of people to be inspired by opera.'

**Sir Nicholas Serota CH**  
Chair, Arts Council England

'I owe Welsh National Opera a deep debt of gratitude for opening up this wonderful world to me, about 40 years ago. And we have seen over 420 opera performances in the last 10 years alone. Now, I try to get the younger generations to discover this wonderful world.'

**Peter Seaborne** WNO Supporter



# Thank you

Welsh National Opera would like to express its gratitude to its supporters in 2016/2017:



The Company in the Summer 2017 Season *Die Fledermaus*. Photo by Bill Cooper

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 Honorary President **Mathew Prichard CBE, DL**  
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Arts Council of Wales  
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 In memoriam Ilsa Yardley  
 Anonymous

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**The WNO Board of Directors and the WNO Advisory Board give their expertise and experience in order to assist in the future development of the Company. We are most grateful for their support.**

WNO would like to specifically thank the Getty Family for their support over five years of the British Firsts Series



# Looking ahead

## Highlights to look forward to in 2017/2018 include:

Russian Revolution in Autumn 2017, with performances of *Khovanshchina*, *Eugene Onegin* and *From the House of the Dead* as part of a Wales-wide R17 season.

Classic revivals of *Tosca* and *Don Giovanni* in Spring 2018.

A new production of *La forza del destino*, the first of a 3 year Verdi Trilogy.

A brand new commission by WNO, *Rhondda Rips It Up!*, telling the story of Welsh suffragette Margaret Haig Thomas (Lady Rhondda).



Keep in touch with WNO [wno.org.uk](http://wno.org.uk)



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