

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY OF MUSIC & THE LIR ACADEMY

SUOR ANGELICA

Giacomo Puccini



Director: Tom Creed | Conductor: Andrew Synnott

The Abbey Theatre on the Peacock stage
3 - 7 March 2015

Ten Thousand Miles Away

Led by the renowned pianist, Iain Burnside, exceptionally gifted students from the Royal Irish Academy of Music, The Lir, Ireland's National Academy of Dramatic Art and the Juilliard School, New York, join forces for a presentation entitled *Ten Thousand Miles Away*. This exciting collaborative project, devised by Iain Burnside and directed by Conor Hanratty, celebrates the connection between Ireland and the United States.

Interweaving songs and poems from both sides of the Atlantic it explores ideas of emigration and identity. Composers Samuel Barber, Herbert Hughes, Arnold Bax, Ben Moore and Michael McHale rub shoulders with poets Seamus Heaney, Paul Durcan, Matthew Sweeney, Selima Hill and WB Yeats.

**March 13th and 14th at
The Lir Academy of Dramatic Art, Dublin**

**March 18th and 19th at the Ellen and James S Marcus
Institute for the Vocal Arts, Juilliard School, New York**

Devised by Iain Burnside

Directed by Iain Burnside and Conor Hanratty

March 13th at 8.00 pm and March 14th at 3.00 pm and 8.00 pm

Tickets: €15/€10 (concessions) from www.thelir.ie/events



Culture Ireland
Cultúr Éireann

Royal Irish
Academy of
Music

THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY OF MUSIC

IN COLLABORATION WITH

THE LIR NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART AT TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

PRESENTS

SUOR ANGELICA

An opera by Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)
Original libretto by Giovacchino Forzano (1884-1970).

Suor Angelica is the second opera of the trio of operas known as *Il Trittico (Triptych)*
It received its world première at the Metropolitan Opera, New York on December 14th, 1918

March 3rd (Preview), 5th, 6th and 7th, 2015 at 6.30pm
at the Abbey Theatre on the Peacock stage

CONDUCTOR: Andrew Synnott

DIRECTOR: Tom Creed

*The performance will last approximately 55 mins
There will be no interval*

Please make certain that your mobile phone is turned off during the performance.
The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are not permitted in this theatre.



SUOR ANGELICA

Cast

NUNS

Suor Angelica (Sister Angelica)

La badessa (The Abbess)

La suora zelatrice (The Monitor)

La suora infermiera (The Nursing Sister)

Due suore cercatrici (Two Alms Sisters)

Rebecca Rodgers

Carla Snow

Sinéad Ní Mhurchú

Heather Fogarty

Louise Martyn, Katie O'Donoghue

MAGDALENES

La maestra delle novizie (Mistress of the Novices)

Suor Genovieffa (Sister Genovieffa)

Suor Osmina (Sister Osmina)

Suor Dolcina (Sister Dolcina)

Due converse (Two Lay Sisters)

Una novizia (A Novice)

Suor Lucilla (Sister Lucilla)

Other sister

Eimear McCarthy Luddy

Sara Di Bella

Ecaterina Tulgara

Olivia O'Carroll

Robyn Richardson, Michelle Smith

Sarah Brady

Kate Millett

Lauren Scully

OTHERS

La zia principessa (Angelica's aunt)

Male Chorus

Carolyn Holt

Callan Coughlan, Aaron Doyle,

Andrew Gavin, Shokri Raouf.

RIAM Opera Orchestra

Violin I Christopher Quaid

Violin II Mercedes Trincherro

Viola Josh Warren

Cello Sarah Lockart

Flute/Piccolo Miriam Kaczor

Oboe Alicia Newton

Clarinet Seamus Wylie

Bass Clarinet Conor Sheil

French Horn Jack Moriarty

Harp Gloria Birardi

Percussion Conal Ó Maoileáin

Organ Annalisa Monticelli

SYNOPSIS

Angelica has been in a convent for seven years. Every day she longs for news from her family, news of the son who was taken from her arms the day he was born, and whom she has never seen or heard from since that day. She waits and waits, but no news comes, and life in the convent goes on as normal. Until today, when a visitor from her past arrives at the convent with terrible news. This production imagines Angelica's story in the context of Ireland and its recent past.

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Andrew Synnott
Director	Tom Creed
Set and Lighting Designer	Aedín Cosgrove
Costume Designer	Catherine Fay
Assistant Director	Eoghan Carrick
Chorus Master	Blánaid Murphy
Répétiteur	Seho Lee
Italian Diction Coach	Annalisa Monticelli
Surtitles	Eoghan Carrick
Design Assistant	Katie Davenport

PRODUCTION TEAM

Producer/RIAM Opera Development	Kathleen Tynan
Production Manager	Rob Furey
Stage Manager	Mary Kilduff

Lir Second Year Stage Management & Technical Theatre

Student Heads of Department:

Assistant Stage Manager	Liane McCarthy
Assistant to the Production Manager	Éanna Whelan
Chief LX	Richard O'Neill
Scenic Art and Prop Maker	Gordon Bell
Costume Supervisor	Sarah Robb

Lir First Year Student Crew:

Set Construction	John Brennan, Niamh Cooke-Escapil, Susan Crawford, Ciara Gallagher, Adeane Hardy
Scenic Art	Sara Gannon, Roisin Kavanagh, Lisa Kearns, Beatrise Leikuca, Grainne McKnight
Lighting	Jude Barriscale, Evie McGuinness, Sheila Murphy, Barry O'Donovan, Hannah Reid

Publicity	Stephanie Dickenson
Public Relations	Ciara Higgins, RIAM
Marketing	Seana Skeffington, The Lir
Production Photography	Frances Marshall
Photography for Poster and Programme	Vlad Cristea
Surtitled Operator	Niamh O'Sullivan
Sound Recording	Sebastian Adams, RIAM
Design and Print	CRM Design + Print Ltd.

For the RIAM and The Lir Academy of Dramatic Art:

Mary Brennan, Derek Chapman, Dearbhla Collins, Barry Conway, Loughlin Deegan, Laoise Doherty, Bill Dowdall, Dr. Veronica Dunne, Catherine Fay, Kate Ferris, Deborah Kelleher, Kevin Kelleher, Virginia Kerr, Lynda Lee, Brid Malone, Sylvia O'Regan, Lisa Mahony, Ruth Meehan, Danny Persse, Cinzia Romeo, Philip Shields, Andrew Synnott, Craig Starkie, Kathleen Tynan

The Royal Irish Academy of Music and The Lir Academy of Dramatic Art
gratefully acknowledge the assistance and support of the Staff and Board of The Abbey Theatre
in mounting this production.



TOM CREED, director

Tom previously directed Stravinsky's *Renard* and *Mavra* for the Royal Irish Academy of Music at the Lir. He was staff director on *Così fan tutte* for Welsh National Opera in 2011 and was a participant on the Jerwood Opera Writing Programme at Aldeburgh Music from 2011 to 2013, where he completed a Fellowship. He is currently developing *Private View*, a new opera by Belgian composer Annelies van Parys, which will be produced by Musiktheater Transparant and premiere at the Flemish Opera in Antwerp in May 2015 before touring extensively in Europe. He is a member of Opera Theatre Company's Opera Hub and is developing new opera and music theatre projects in Canada and the USA. His extensive work as a director over the past ten years includes productions for the Abbey Theatre, Gate Theatre, Rough Magic, his own company Playgroup and a range of independent Irish companies, which have played in Ireland, the UK, Europe and the USA. He was nominated for Best Director at the Irish Times Theatre Awards in 2007. Most recently he directed *Into the Woods* and *O Go My Man* for the graduating acting students at the Lir. His production of *Watt* by Samuel Beckett with acclaimed Irish actor Barry McGovern has been presented at the Dublin Theatre Festival, Galway Arts Festival, Edinburgh International Festival, Perth International Festival, the Barbican Centre in London, the Public Theatre in New York and on tour in the USA, and continues to tour internationally. From 2011-2013 Tom was Festival Director of Cork Midsummer Festival, one of Ireland's leading contemporary arts festivals. He was nominated for an Irish Times Irish Theatre Award in 2012 "for original and dynamic use of local spaces at Cork Midsummer Festival".

ANDREW SYNNOTT, conductor

Andrew Synnott is a Dublin-based composer, arranger, conductor and pianist, and PhD student at DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama. He was organ scholar in Christ Church Cathedral and the Pro-Cathedral while studying Music at Trinity College Dublin. He has conducted for Opera Theatre Company (*The Marriage of Figaro*, *The Magic Flute*, *Il mondo della luna*, *Orfeo*, *Bastien and Bastienne*, *Xerxes*, *Acis and Galatea*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Orfeo*, *Carmen*); Co-Opera (*La traviata*, *Carmen*, *Die Fledermaus*), Glashule Opera (*Die Zauberflöte*), and the Royal Irish Academy of Music (*The Telephone*, *Hand of Bridge*, *For A Look Or A Touch*, *Renard*, *Greed*, and *Sensational!*). Most recently he conducted the première of his own opera, *Breakdown*, in the National Concert Hall. His arrangements of *La Bohème* and *The Magic Flute* have toured extensively in Ireland and the UK. Andrew has conducted at the Buxton Opera Festival, the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and in Australia, Portugal and France. Other recent conducting engagements include the Maria Callas show in the NCH and a concert and recording for the Louth Contemporary Music Society. He is the resident composer for Opera Theatre Company's Opera Hub and has written music for The Abbey Theatre, Pan Pan Theatre, Irish Modern Dance Theatre and, most recently, Finghin Collins and the WhistleBlast Quartet and Music Generation. His organ and choral music has been performed and broadcast worldwide. He has conducted for many theatre productions and musicals including several Derby Playhouse productions of Sondheim shows, which he also arranged. Andrew is a former artistic director and conductor of Crash Ensemble, a group he co-founded in 1997. He is a member of the vocal faculty in the RIAM and is also a member of the tango quartet Le Grand Tango.

CATHERINE FAY, costume design

Catherine is currently designing *Romeo and Juliet* for The Gate Theatre and has most recently designed *Oh Go My Man* for The Lir Academy. *Neither Either* for Liz Roche Dance Company. *Our Few and Evil Days* (ITTA nomination 2015) and *Aristocrats* for The Abbey Theatre, *Breaking Bad* (ITTA nomination 2015) for Lane Productions, *Tundra* for Emma Martin Dance and *Ice Child* for Barnstorm. Previously she designed *The Threepenny Opera* for The Gate Theatre, *Carmen* for Opera Theatre Company. *Quietly* by Owen McCafferty at The Peacock Theatre, Edinburgh Festival (winner of Edinburgh Fringe First 2013). *DOGS* for Emma Martin Dance (winner Best Production/Best Design Fringe Festival 2012).

AEDÍN COSGROVE, set design and lighting design

Aedín co-founded Pan Pan in 1991. Designs for Pan Pan include, *The Playboy of the Western World* (Beijing), *The Crumb Trail*, *The Rehearsal*, *Playing the Dane* at Dublin Theatre Festival 2010 (winner of the Irish Times Theatre Best Set Design Award and Best Production 2010), *Do Di Zhu (Fight the Landlord)* for Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre and Shanghai Expo, *All That Fall* by Samuel Beckett (winner of the Irish Times Theatre Best Lighting Design Award 2011), *A Doll House* at Smock Alley and *Everyone is King Lear in his Own Home*, Dublin Theatre Festival 2012. Previous opera designs include *Pasquale* and *Così fan Tutti*, and *Carmen*, for Opera Theatre Company.



SARAH BRADY Soprano (A Novice) is a third year BA in Music Performance (Vocal Studies) student at the RIAM studying with Mary Brennan and Dearbhla Collins.

Previous Roles for the RIAM: Sicle, *Ormindo*,

Other Roles: Norah, *Riders to the Sea* (Opera at Castalia 2014)

Notable Engagements: Soloist with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra for Carols in Kilkenny Castle 2014, Handel's *Messiah* and *Dixit Dominus*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Britten *A Ceremony of Carols* and *Rejoice in the Lamb*. Recitals in John Field Room, NCH, Feis Ceoil Young Artists Platform Concert, Recital in Mansion House for the John McCormack Society

Prizes/Scholarships: Winner of the Irene Sandford Award for Singers, 2015, Percy Whitehead Cup, Vincent O'Brien Memorial Cup, Soprano Solo Cup, Margaret Burke-Sheridan Cup, Milne Cup, finalist in the Gervase Elwes Memorial Cup, ESB Feis Ceoil 2014, Sarah was also a scholarship student of the prestigious Schola Cantorum in St. Finian's College, Mullingar

Forthcoming Engagements: Handel's *Messiah* with Culwick Choral Society in Christchurch Cathedral, March 2015



SARA DI BELLA Soprano (Sister Genevieffa) is in her second year of the Masters in Music Performance with Sylvia O'Regan and Andrew Synnott, having previously completed a BA in Music at the Conservatory "A.Scontrino" (Italy) and a BA in Music at University of Palermo (Italy).

Previous Roles for the RIAM: Vixen, *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

Other Roles: Gaio, *The Little Sweep* (Britten); Sem, *Noye's Fludde* (Britten); little soprano, *La Rondine* (Puccini) Teatro G.Di Stefano (Italy) for Ente Luglio Musicale Trapanese Nella, *Gianni Schicchi* (Puccini); Her, *La Notte di un Nevrastenico* (Rota) Teatro Manoel (Malta) for I Solisti di Operalaboratorio Aretta, *L'Oca del Cairo* (Mozart) Teatro Regina Margherita, Racalmuto (Italy).

Notable Engagements: touring a lot since 2012 with Anúna (Canada, Holland, Belgium, Canary Islands, Japan); touring Germany and Italy with JSB Ensemble of the International Bachakademie (Stuttgart) singing the JS Bach's *Mass in B minor* under the direction of Helmut Rilling in 2012; soloist for the Membra Iesu Nostri (Buxtehude) conducted by the harpischordist Fabio Bonizzoni and recorded from the Radio Vaticana in 2011; recording of Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* and *Stabat Mater* with Simone Alaimo; concerts for "Suona Francese Barocco" and French Embassy with Gian Luca Lastraioli in 2008 and 2009.

Prizes and Scholarships: only winner of singing section of "Prize of the Arts 2007" organized by Department of Education and Science among all Italian conservatories.



HEATHER FOGARTY Mezzo-Soprano (The Nursing Sister) is currently in her final year of BA in Music Performance (Vocal Studies) under the direction of Mary Brennan and répétiteur Dearbhla Collins.

Previous Roles for RIAM: Mirinda, *Ormindo*, *The Owl*, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Story Teller, Jephthe, Third Knabe in *Die Zauberflöte*.

Other Roles: Pitti Sing with Rathmines and Rathgar musical society's production of *The Mikado* in the NCH Nov 2013.

Notable Engagements: Mezzo-Soprano Soloist in Bach *Magnificat* with Bray Choral Society under the direction of Frank Kelly. Toured Germany in the Summer of 2013 with Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival. Christmas tour in Germany with the Lübeck Choir Academy.

Prizes Scholarships: Julia Trench Bursary 2014. Contralto solo in ESB Feis Ceoil 2014. Vincent O'Brien cup in the ESB Feis Ceoil 2013. Heather was also a scholarship student of the prestigious Schola Cantorum in St. Finian's College, Mullingar.

Forthcoming Engagements: Performing in *Elijah* May 2015 in the NCH with the NSO.



CAROLYN HOLT Mezzo-Soprano (Angelica's Aunt) is currently a fourth year student on the BA in Music Performance (Vocal Studies) degree course at the RIAM, studying under Mary Brennan and Andrew Synnott. Carolyn has been offered a scholarship to study for an MA in Vocal Performance at the Royal Academy of Music in London, starting September 2015.

Previous Roles for the RIAM: La Fortuna in *Ormindo* by Cavalli, Woodpecker/Hen/Forest creature in Janacek's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Storyteller in Carissimi's *Jepthe*, Zweite dame in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*.

Notable Engagements: Chorus member of Bizet's *Carmen* (OTC), Chorus member of John Adams' *Nixon in China* (Wide Open Opera), Soloist in Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* (RIAM).

Prizes/Scholarships: Winner of the Geraldine McGee Bursary at this years Irene Sanford Award for Singers, Winner of the Mezzo-Soprano Solo 2014 (ESB Feis Ceoil), prizes at the Arklow and Kilcoole Music Festivals including the Classical Solo Winner and Overall Solo Winner, Silver and Gold High Achievers Award (RIAM), finalist in the Midland Classical Youth, Julia Trench Bursary.



LOUISE MARTYN Soprano (First Alms Sister) is in her first year of Masters in Performance with Kathleen Tynan and Dearbhla Collins, having previously completed two years of post-graduate study at Birmingham Conservatory with Catherine Benson and a First Class Honours BA in Music and Irish from NUI Maynooth.

Previous Roles in RIAM: Erisbe (understudy), *Ormindo*.

Other Roles: Dido, *Dido and Aeneas*, Sister Genevieve, *Suor Angelica*, Mrs. Hildebrand, *Street Scene* (Birmingham Conservatoire Opera), Miss Wingrave, *Owen Wingrave*, Niece Two, *Peter Grimes*, Lady Dunmow *A Dinner Engagement*.

Notable Engagements: Soprano soloist in Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and Fauré's *Requiem*, ESB Feis Ceoil Young Performers' Platform Series, John Field Room, NCH, Concerts for Count John McCormack Society at the Mansion House, 'Beyond Classical' Concert Series in Birmingham Symphony Hall Foyer

Prizes/Scholarships: Winner of Soprano Solo, ESB Feis Ceoil and John McCormack Society Scholar, 2012, Runner Up in Percy Whitehead and R&R Cup, ESB Feis Ceoil, 2014.



EIMEAR MCCARTHY LUDDY Mezzo-Soprano (Mistress of the Novices) is currently studying the Diploma in Music Teaching and Performance at the RIAM under the tutelage of Kathleen Tynan and Dearbhla Collins having graduated with a Bachelor of Music from the University of Birmingham in 2013.

Previous Roles for RIAM: Il Destino, *Ormindo*; Grasshopper/Hen, *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

Other Roles: Achilles, *Iphigénie en Aulide* (Birmingham Summer Festival of Music).

Notable Engagements: Chorus for *Tosca* and '*The Genius of Mozart*' (Lyric Opera), soloist in première performance of Howard Goodall's *Lullaby of Winter* (Bramall Music Building), member of BBC Proms Youth Choir (opening night of the BBC Proms 2013).

Prizes/Scholarships: Silver medal in Mná Competition (ESB Feis Ceoil), RIAM High Achievers Award, Junior Rosebowl (ESB Feis Ceoil).



KATE MILLETT Soprano (Sister Lucilla) is in her first year of Postgraduate Recital Artist Diploma at RIAM, studying under Virginia Kerr and Dearbhla Collins, having completed a BA in Philosophy and Theology from Trinity College Dublin.

Notable Engagements: Soloist for the Jordanian British Embassy's annual 'Burns' night, January 2013, Soloist for the Amman Music Society, April 2013, Soloist for the Amman Music Society New Year's Celebration, January 2014, Soloist for 'Sing for Syria', April 2014, Soloist for Recital at The Duke's Chapel, Um Il Kundum, Amman, September 2014, Soloist for Landmark Hotel Opera Recital, Jabal Amman, December 2014.

Previous Roles: *Wind in the Willows* Alan Bennett: Mouse, Chorus Role Woldingham School 2009, *Trial by Jury* Gilbert and Sullivan, Flower Girl, Chorus and Solo Role Woldingham School 2010.

Prizes/Scholarships: Awarded the Reigate and Redhill Music Festival Singing Cup, 2007, Awarded the Woldingham School Elizabeth Cup for singing, 2009, Music Scholar at Woldingham School, 2008-2010, Awarded the Woldingham School Singers Cup, 2010.



SINÉAD NÍ MHURCHÚ Soprano (The Monitor) is currently studying for a Master degree in Vocal Performance at the Royal Irish Academy of Music with Virginia Kerr and Dearbhla Collins having previously studied piano and harp at CIT Cork School of Music before pursuing vocal training with Robert Beare and Dr. Veronica Dunne.

Previous Roles for the RIAM: Mrs. Paskova, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Donna Elvira, *Don Giovanni*.

Notable Engagements: Cover role of Nancy T'ang (Third Secretary) for Wide Open Opera's *Nixon in China* (Adams), concert performances of *Messiah* (Handel) and *Nuits d'Été* (Berlioz) for Kinsale Arts Festival.

Prizes/Scholarships: A recipient of the Margaret Dillon Memorial Perpetual Trophy at Feis Maitiú and finalist in the Dramatic Cup at Feis Ceoil 2014, Sinéad has participated in masterclasses with Iain Burnside, Ann Murray, Kamal Kahn, Brenda Hurley, Roy Laughlin and Susan Bullock.



OLIVIA O'CARROLL Soprano (Sister Dolcina) is a third year BA in Music Performance (Vocal Studies) student at the RIAM, previously a student of Dr. Veronica Dunne, currently studying with Lynda Lee and Dearbhla Collins.

Previous Roles for the RIAM: Understudy role of Melide, *Ormindo*.

Notable Engagements: Chorus of *Tosca*, (Lyric Opera), National Concert Hall, May 2014.

Prizes/Scholarships: The Catherine O'Byrne Memorial Cup, Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny.



KATIE O'DONOGHUE Soprano (Second Alms Sister) is currently in her third year of BA in Music Performance (Vocal Studies) with Mary Brennan and Dearbhla Collins in the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

Previous Roles for the RIAM: Amore (understudy) *Ormindo*.

Prizes/Scholarships: Winner of The Young Cup ESB Feis Ceoil 2014.



ROBYN RICHARDSON Soprano (First Lay Sister) is currently studying in her final year of BA in Music Performance (Vocal Studies) at the Royal Irish Academy of Music with Kathleen Tynan and répétiteur Andrew Synnott. During her times here, Robyn has had the privilege of working with Ann Murray, Robin Tritschler, Iain Burnside, Roy Laughlin, Alison Browner, Richard Steele, Constance Rock, Harry Silverstein and John Elwes.

Previous roles for the RIAM: Melide, *Ormindo*, Pepik, Hen and Fly, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Story Teller Soprano 2, *Jepthe*, Zweiter Knabe, *Mozart at the Freemason's*.

Notable Engagements: Lyric Opera Chorus member, *La Bohème*, *Aida*, 2012, *HMS Pinafore*, *The Mikado*, Buxton Opera House, 2013, *Rusalka*, The Gaiety Theatre, 2013.

Prizes/Scholarships: Robyn has won multiple awards at ESB Feis Ceoil over the last three years

Forthcoming Engagements: Praskovia, *The Merry Widow*, Lyric Opera Company, May 16th, 17th, 19th.



REBECCA RODGERS Soprano (Sister Angelica) is a graduate of the Royal Irish Academy of music and is currently studying for a masters in Music Performance degree at the RIAM with Kathleen Tynan.

Previous Roles for the RIAM: Iris, *Semele*, Geraldine, *A Hand of Bridge*, Mrs. Herring, *Albert Herring*, Petrovna, *Mavra* and Journalist, Sensational! Chocholka, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *L'Armonia*, *Ormindo*.

Other Roles: Bödo, *FLATPACK* (Ulysses Opera) and Cathleen, *Riders to the Sea* (Mid West Opera).

Notable Engagements: Lyric fm CD celebrating composer WV Wallace, NI Opera Festival of Voice finalist 2013, *HARP A River cantata* soloist, Dublin Fringe Festival.

Prizes/Scholarships: The National Opera studio's short course (Scholarship awarded by NI Opera) Sligo Feis Ceoil senior bursary winner and the Flax trust bursary winner awarded by Camerata Ireland.

Forthcoming Engagements: *Ten Thousand Miles Away* in Dublin and New York 2015.



LAUREN SCULLY Soprano (Other Sister) recently graduated from a Diploma in Music Teaching and Performance at RIAM under Imelda Drumm and Dearbhla Collins. She is also a graduate of St. Patrick's College Dublin where she completed a BA in Music and Irish, 2013. She now continues to study singing with Dr. Veronica Dunne and Imelda Drumm.

Previous Roles for the RIAM: Deer, Hen and Chorus, *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

Notable Engagements: Chorus Member *Riders to the Sea* (Opera at Castalia), Soprano soloist and chorus member *The Events* (Abbey Theatre), Soprano soloist for 'National Music Day' with conductor Colman Pearce, Actor *Nixon in China* (Wide Open Opera), Soprano soloist and chorus member with The Lassus Scholars both in Ireland and abroad.



MICHELLE SMITH Soprano (Second Lay Sister) is currently completing the RIAM Diploma in Music (Teaching and performance) with Kathleen Tynan and Dearbhla Collins, having previously graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education at Trinity College, Dublin.

Previous Roles for the RIAM: Wardrobe Assistant and L'Armonia (understudy), *Ormindo*, Cricket, *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

Notable Engagements: Second Soprano soloist in Bach's *Magnificat*, Trinity College Dublin, Soprano soloist in Orff's *Carmina Burana*, NCH for Trinity Choral Society, Soloist in *Resonances*, Dublin Castle for the Dublin City of Literature Festival with the RIAM Chamber Orchestra, Soloist for *Brendan's Voyage*, John Field Room, Soloist at the RIAM for Culture Night, Soloist for Educo Fundraiser at Sommerville House, 2014.

Prizes/Scholarships: Winner of Thomas Moore Cup, ESB Feis Ceoil 2013, Gold Medal in RIAM Recital Exam, Recipient of the Fanny Robinson Bursary at RIAM 2013-2014, Vivre Musicale Artist 2014/15.

Forthcoming Events: participating in the *Pierrot Project*, RIAM May 2015, Ned Rorem's Ariel Trio in *Molly Malone* in association with Vivre Musicale May 2015.



CARLA SNOW Mezzo-Soprano (The Abbess) is currently a third year student on BA in Music Performance (Vocal Studies) at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, studying under Lynda Lee and Dearbhla Collins.

Previous Roles for the RIAM: La Fortuna (understudy) in *Ormindo* by Cavalli.

Notable Engagements: Chorus member of Lyric Opera Chorus for *Tosca* and *Mozart by Candlelight*.

Prizes/Scholarships: Recipient of the Fanny Robinson Bursary at RIAM 2014/2015, RIAM High Achievers Award.



ECATERINA TULGARA Soprano (Sister Osmina) is in her third year of Bachelors in Vocal Performance at the RIAM with Dr. Veronica Dunne and Andrew Synnott.

Previous Roles for the RIAM: Il Destino (understudy) *Ormindo*

Prizes/Scholarships: Winner of 'Most Promising Singer' Irene Sandford Award for Singers 2015

The Lir's Professional Diploma in Stage Management and Technical Theatre

The Lir's two-year Level 8 course aims to equip students of exceptional talent with skills necessary for a career as a stage manager and/or technical specialist in the professional theatre and related industries through the development of skills, professional practices and creative approaches to theatre production. It encourages a self-reflective approach to learning with a view to developing independent thinking practitioners of theatre. Through a series of skills-based courses in stagecraft and construction, lighting and sound, properties and propping, stage/production/technical management, film and television, health and safety, technical drawing, make-up and scenic art, the course equips students with the skills necessary to realise a theatre production. See www.thelir.ie for more details and application procedures.



'DEATH OF A COMEDIAN DAZZLES'
IRISH INDEPENDENT



ABBAY THEATRE ON THE PEACOCK STAGE

THE ABBEY THEATRE, THE LYRIC THEATRE
AND SOHO THEATRE PRESENT

DEATH OF A COMEDIAN

A NEW PLAY BY

OWEN MCCAFFERTY

10 MARCH – 4 APRIL

TIMES: Wed – Sat 8pm, Sat matinee 2.30pm

TICKETS: €18 – €25 (Conc. €13 – €18)

CAST Shaun Dingwall, Brian Doherty, Katie McGuinness DIRECTOR Steve Marmion SET & COSTUME DESIGN Michael Vale
LIGHTING DESIGN Ben Ormerod SOUND DESIGN Tom Mills ASSISTANT DIRECTOR Sara Joyce

PHOTOGRAPHY: GUY AUSTIN



www.abbeytheatre.ie



• *Ormindo* (Cavalli) 2015

Previous RIAM Opera Productions

- 2015 *Ormindo* (Cavalli)
- 2014 *Mozart at the Freemasons' Hall*
- 2014 *Jepthe* (Carissimi)
- 2014 *Greed* (Dove)
- 2014 *Sensational!* (O'Connell)
- 2014 *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Janáček)
- 2013 *Renard* (Stravinsky)
- 2013 *Mavra* (Stravinsky)
- 2013 *Phaedra* (Britten)
- 2013 *For a look or a touch* (Heggie)
- 2013 *Albert Herring* (Britten)
- 2012 *Il Combattimento di Clorinda e Tancredi* (Monteverdi)
- 2012 *The Telephone* (Menotti)
- 2012 *A Hand of Bridge* (Barber)
- 2012 *Semele* (Handel)
- 2011 *Gianni Schicchi* (Puccini)
- 2010 *Così fan tutte* (Mozart)
- 2009 *La Serva Padrona* (Pergolesi)
- 2009 *La Finta Giardiniera* (Mozart)
- 2008 *La Pietra del Paragone* (Rossini)
- 2007 *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Mozart)
- 2005 *Dido and Aeneas* (Purcell)

For further information
about RIAM Opera
visit the RIAM Opera Archive at
<http://riamopera.wordpress.com/>

Photographs from previous
productions can be seen at
[http://www.flickr.com/photos/
riamlibrary/sets](http://www.flickr.com/photos/riamlibrary/sets)

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