

2026-27

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Your 2026–27 year of opera

Eugene Onegin

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Rigoletto

Giuseppe Verdi

A Christmas Carol

Will Todd / David Simpatico

Don Giovanni

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Dead Man Walking

Jake Heggie / Terrence McNally

Orpheus

Claudio Monteverdi / Jasdeep Singh Degun

Tristan und Isolde

Richard Wagner



Making Opera Vital

**Whoever you are, whatever your age,
wherever you live – Opera North is here
to share the magic of opera with you.**

**General Director Laura Canning,
Music Director Garry Walker and
Director of Artistic Administration
Isla Mundell-Perkins look forward to
their personal highlights of the year:**



Laura Canning

Egli è Delitto, Punizion son io. ‘He is Crime; I am Punishment’ says Rigoletto to the assassin, Sparafucile. It’s fascinating how many of the greatest operas deal with revenge and retribution as they explore the human condition. From Onegin to Orpheus, this year we will meet fascinating characters either trying desperately to avoid their fate, or in the case of Tristan and Isolde and Joseph De Rocher, only finding true release when they accept it.

I can’t wait to watch some extraordinary conductors and directors tackle these wonderful scores. I was lucky enough to first see *Dead Man Walking* in Texas, where it was terrifyingly normal to turn on the radio in the morning and hear that someone had been executed during the night. I’m thrilled to bring Annilese Miskimmon’s Olivier-nominated production to audiences in the North, where this important and beautiful piece has never yet been performed.

I am also so excited to experience Jasdeep Singh Degun’s *Orpheus* live for the first time myself and to enable new audiences to share in this groundbreaking cross-cultural collaboration. It will be thrilling, too, to continue our Wagnerian odyssey with his game-changing opera *Tristan und Isolde* in a new production directed by Peter Mumford, who staged Opera North’s hugely acclaimed *Ring* cycle.

Isla Mundell-Perkins

I engage with opera primarily from the perspective of the singers on our stage and the conductors working with our Company. The most thrilling part of my job is finding the right voices for roles, and the right conductors to bring Opera North to the highest level of musical and dramatic achievement.

With that in mind, I cannot wait for Blake Denson's debut as Rigoletto – he has an astonishing voice. Verity Wingate is already a brilliant Tatyana, but this will be her UK debut in the role. We've assembled a really special ensemble cast for *Don Giovanni*, and I'm so happy to welcome Ben Glassberg for his Opera North debut, conducting *Dead Man Walking*.

In that piece, we've started a really exciting journey with the exceptional young baritone Johannes Moore, who was Ned Keene in our recent *Peter Grimes* and will now bring to life the challenging role of Joseph De Rocher. We also welcome back the amazing Christine Rice, who created Sister Helen in this production in London.

We celebrate our Orchestra in a great variety of programmes in the Kirklees Concert Season. I'm proud to present conductors such as Ryan Wigglesworth and Erina Yashima alongside our own Garry Walker and Antony Hermus. And we're so lucky to have a Chorus which is also a soloist ensemble: among many others, Claire Pascoe sings Filipyevna in *Onegin* and Claire Lees sings Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*.

Garry Walker

What I am looking forward to most is the variety of experiences we present. There are four very contrasting operas in the theatre season, all pinnacles of achievement in their respective styles. With *Dead Man Walking*, it's great to be doing a contemporary opera. It is a deeply moving piece, as were the film and the book on which it is based. Jake Heggie's music and Terrence McNally's words only enhance the story's power.

I'm delighted that we will be doing Will Todd's musical retelling of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* in the Howard Assembly Room in December. Will has beautifully marinated existing well-loved carols with his own music for a fresh take on this classic cautionary tale.

The Kirklees Concert Season also provides great variety in what will be a blockbuster of a programme across the orchestral, chamber and organ series.

We are fortunate to be joined by so many outstanding guest artists this season, both on the stage and on the podium, for what promises to be another exciting year.

All that's needed is for you to join us!

A close-up photograph of a red theater curtain. The curtain is made of a rich, textured red fabric and is gathered at the top by a gold-colored cord that forms a scalloped shape. A large, ornate gold tassel hangs from the center of this cord. Above the tassel, a circular metal ring is attached to the top edge of the curtain. In the background, the stage rigging is visible, consisting of a complex network of silver metal pipes and beams. Several small, round, white stage lights are suspended from the rigging, casting a warm glow. The overall scene is set in a theater, with the red curtain being the central focus.

The Operas

PERFORMANCES

Leeds Grand Theatre Oct 9, 16, 22, 24, 29

Theatre Royal, Newcastle Nov 7

Lowry, Salford Quays Nov 13

Theatre Royal, Nottingham Nov 18, 21

A co-production with Irish National Opera
and Opera Queensland

Eugene Onegin

Tatyana, a young woman living in the depths of the Russian countryside, falls hopelessly in love with Eugene Onegin, a dashing, cynical man of the world. Thinking her naïve, he casually rejects her. When, many years later, they meet again, Tatyana is married to another man and the toast of fashionable St Petersburg society. Too late Onegin realises that he loves Tatyana, with devastating consequences for them both.

Tchaikovsky adapted Pushkin's great verse novel for the stage and set it to music that displays his gift for unforgettable melody – particularly in Tatyana's famous 'Letter Scene' – and his genius for dance in the rural revels and the Petersburg ball scenes. The result is a deeply affecting portrait of love, regret and missed chances.

This new production, conducted by Opera North's Music Director Garry Walker and directed by Opera Queensland's Artistic Director Patrick Nolan, will bring out the timeless quality of this heartbreaking classic.

Music Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Libretto Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

First performance Moscow, 1879

Sung in Russian with English titles
Lasts approximately 3 hours 15 mins

Cast includes

Eugene Onegin John Brancy

Tatyana Verity Wingate

Lensky Caspar Singh

Olga Jingwen Cai

Larina Hannah Mason

Filipyevna Claire Pascoe

Prince Gremin Joshua Bloom

Monsieur Triquet Florian Panzieri

Conductor Garry Walker

Director Patrick Nolan

Set Designer Leslie Travers

Costume Designer Elizabeth Gadsby

Lighting Designer Malcolm Rippeth

Choreographer Maxine Braham

PERFORMANCES

Leeds Grand Theatre Oct 18 mat, 21 mat (relaxed)*, 23, 25, 30, 31 mat

Theatre Royal, Newcastle Nov 4, 5, 6

Lowry, Salford Quays Nov 12, 14

Theatre Royal, Nottingham Nov 19, 20

*This performance will feature the *Rigoletto* cover cast

Revival of 2022 production

Rigoletto

Rigoletto exists on the margins of a world owned by the privileged few – and is despised by them for his difference. Twisted inside by the life he has been forced to lead, the only thing he lives for is his daughter, Gilda, of whom he is obsessively protective. When a combination of bitterness and bravura gets the better of him, the consequences for his most precious possession are fatal.

This bold, award-winning production by leading UK theatre artist Femi Elufowoju Jr is opera at its most gripping: a thrilling tale of power, love and revenge that includes one of opera's most famous arias, 'La donna è mobile'.

'The big idea in Femi Elufowoju Jr's reading of *Rigoletto* for Opera North is so powerful and so current and at the same time so true to the artistic force of Verdi's setting of Victor Hugo that it is surprising it has taken until now for someone to put it on the stage' *The Guardian*

Music Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto Francesco Maria Piave

First performance Venice, 1851

Sung in Italian with English titles

Lasts approximately 2 hours 40 mins

Cast includes

Duke of Mantua Leonardo Sánchez

Rigoletto Blake Denson

Gilda Jasmine Habersham

Sparafucile Callum Thorpe

Count Monterone Sir Willard White

Marullo Themba Mvula

Matteo Borsa Thomas Elwin

Conductor Patrick Lange

Director Femi Elufowoju Jr

Set and Costume Designer Rae Smith

Lighting Designer Howard Hudson

Choreographer Laila Diallo

Fight Director Alison de Burgh

Rigoletto, 2022: Sir Willard White as Count Monterone
Photograph: Clive Barda



Don Giovanni, 2018: William Dazeley as the Don
Photograph: Bill Cooper



PERFORMANCES

Leeds Grand Theatre Feb 5, 7 mat, 13, 21 mat, 26

Lowry, Salford Quays Mar 3, 5

Theatre Royal, Newcastle Mar 10, 12

Theatre Royal, Nottingham Mar 17, 19

Hull New Theatre Apr 1, 3 mat

Revival of 2012 production

Don Giovanni

As he seduces his way across Europe, bedding 1,003 women in Spain alone, Don Giovanni's toxic masculinity is a challenge not only to human morality, but also to God. Broad comedy rubs up against tense drama in Da Ponte's libretto, and the beauty and terror of Mozart's score are evidence of a supreme musical dramatist at the height of his powers.

Alessandro Talevi's eclectic production follows this legendary womaniser, whose outward charm masks cruelty and violence, through time and space, bringing fresh insights to Mozart's darkest, craziest opera. Sparkling music, vivid characters and dramatic bite combine to create a work that is both endlessly entertaining and profoundly unsettling.

'... the younger elements of the first-night audience clearly relished the breezy sensationalism of [Talevi's] concept and applauded the undeniable bravado of its execution without reservations' *The Telegraph*

Music Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto Lorenzo da Ponte

First performance Prague, 1787

Sung in Italian with English titles

Lasts approximately 3 hours 15 mins

Cast includes

Don Giovanni Mark Stone

Leporello David Ireland

Donna Anna Sara Cortolezzis

Donna Elvira Alexandra Lowe

Don Ottavio Anthony Gregory

Zerlina Claire Lees

Masetto Thomas Chenhall

Commendatore Blaise Malaba

Conductor Chloe Rooke

Director Alessandro Talevi

Set and Costume Designer

Madeleine Boyd

Lighting Designer Matthew Haskins

Choreographer Victoria Newlyn

PERFORMANCES

Leeds Grand Theatre Feb 19, 24, 27

Lowry, Salford Quays Mar 6

Theatre Royal, Newcastle Mar 13

Theatre Royal, Nottingham Mar 20

A co-production with English National Opera
and Finnish National Opera

Dead Man Walking

Based on the memoir by Sister Helen Prejean, *Dead Man Walking* is one of the most widely acclaimed and frequently performed operas of the past 25 years.

Imprisoned for a horrific double murder, Joseph De Rocher asks Sister Helen for spiritual guidance as he awaits execution on Death Row. Despite the misgivings of the sisters of her mission and members of the prison staff, Helen agrees to his request. Caught between the pain and grief of De Rocher's family and the families of his victims, Helen attempts to lead De Rocher to a confession of his terrible crimes, whatever the emotional cost to herself.

With a libretto by acclaimed playwright Terrence McNally set to Jake Heggie's deeply affecting score, *Dead Man Walking* is an intensely powerful work that explores the limits of compassion, faith and forgiveness.

Music Jake Heggie

Libretto Terrence McNally

First performance

San Francisco, 2000

Sung in English with English titles

Lasts approximately 3 hours

Cast includes

Sister Helen Prejean Christine Rice

Joseph De Rocher Johannes Moore

Mrs Patrick De Rocher Kate Royal

Conductor Ben Glassberg

Director Annilese Miskimmon

Set Designer Alex Eales

Costume Designer Evie Gurney

Lighting Designer D.M. Wood

Choreographer Imogen Knight

**Nominated for Best New Opera Production
in the 2026 Olivier Awards**

Dead Man Walking at English National Opera, 2025
Photograph: Manuel Harlan





Chorus of Opera North
Photograph: Tom Arber

New production

A Christmas Carol

This magical retelling of Charles Dickens' much-loved 'Ghost Story of Christmas' blends words and music to tell the story of the redemption of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly man of business whose life is changed for good one icy Christmas Eve by a succession of ghostly visitations.

Acclaimed playwright David Simpatico's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* features Dickens' original words interspersed with Will Todd's exquisite arrangements of traditional Victorian carols. Featuring members of the Chorus of Opera North accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble, this new production by PJ Harris (*Simon Boccanegra*) is specially conceived for the intimate splendour of the Victorian Howard Assembly Room. Celebrating the true spirit of Christmas, it promises to be a joyous seasonal treat.

Music Will Todd

Libretto David Simpatico,
after Charles Dickens

First performance London, 2024

Sung and spoken in English
Lasts approximately 1 hour 15 mins

Conductor Garry Walker

Director PJ Harris

Set and Costume Designer Khadija Raza

[See page 16 for dates](#)



Orpheus, 2022: Jasdeep Singh Degun
Photograph: Tom Arber

New production in collaboration with SAA-uk

Orpheus

Jasdeep Singh Degun's thrilling reimagining of Monteverdi's beautiful baroque masterpiece won huge acclaim when it was first performed by Opera North in 2022, winning multiple awards, including Outstanding Achievement in Opera at the UK Theatre Awards and Best Stage Production in the Asian Media Awards. This new production of the work focuses on the musical spectacle of a union of uniquely talented singers and musicians from both the South Asian and western classical traditions.

'Opera North's teeming fusion of Monteverdi with Indian classical traditions is an inspired match' *The Observer*

'This original, moving reworking of Orfeo is a cross-cultural event that for once does justice to both cultures involved' *The Telegraph*

Music Claudio Monteverdi and
Jasdeep Singh Degun

Original Italian libretto

Alessandro Striggio

First performance

Mantua, 1607 / Leeds, 2022

Sung in Italian, Hindi, Urdu and other languages, with English titles
Lasts approximately 2 hours 50 mins

Musical Directors Jasdeep Singh Degun
and Ashok Gupta



See page 17 for dates/venues



Antony Hermus with the Orchestra of Opera North
Photograph: Justin Slee

New production

Tristan und Isolde

Tristan und Isolde is one of the most significant works in western art. After it, music could never be the same again. It is a hymn to a love that transcends death, set to some of the most sheerly sensuous music ever composed – and the frank eroticism of the score still has the power to shock. So extreme is the work that Wagner himself called it frightful and feared it would drive people mad, or be banned.

This is the latest in Opera North's sequence of award-winning concert stagings. It is directed by Peter Mumford, who was responsible for the Company's legendary *Ring* cycle. Conducted by Principal Guest Conductor Antony Hermus, it promises to be one of the operatic events of 2027.

Music Richard Wagner
Libretto Richard Wagner
First performance Munich, 1865

Sung in German with English titles
Lasts approximately 5 hours 15 mins
(including two intervals)

Cast includes

Tristan John Matthew Myers
Isolde Wendy Bryn Harmer
King Marke Karl Huml

Conductor Antony Hermus
Director Peter Mumford
Set, Lighting and Projection Designer
Peter Mumford


See page 17 for dates/venues

This production will be one of the first events in Leeds Town Hall's reopening season following its refurbishment. Details will be announced later in the year.



Performance Diary 2026-27

Leeds Grand Theatre

Fri 9 Oct	7.00pm	Eugene Onegin	
Fri 16 Oct	7.00pm	Eugene Onegin	
Sun 18 Oct	2.00pm	Rigoletto	
Wed 21 Oct	1.30pm	Rigoletto	
Thu 22 Oct	7.00pm	Eugene Onegin	
Fri 23 Oct	7.00pm	Rigoletto	AD »»
Sat 24 Oct	7.00pm	Eugene Onegin	
Sun 25 Oct	5.00pm	Rigoletto	
Thu 29 Oct	6.30pm	Eugene Onegin	
Fri 30 Oct	7.00pm	Rigoletto	
Sat 31 Oct	2.00pm	Rigoletto	

Theatre Royal, Newcastle

Wed 4 Nov	7.00pm	Rigoletto	
Thu 5 Nov	7.00pm	Rigoletto	
Fri 6 Nov	7.00pm	Rigoletto	AD »»
Sat 7 Nov	7.00pm	Eugene Onegin	

Lowry, Salford Quays

Thu 12 Nov	7.00pm	Rigoletto	
Fri 13 Nov	7.00pm	Eugene Onegin	
Sat 14 Nov	7.00pm	Rigoletto	AD »»


Theatre Royal, Nottingham

Wed 18 Nov	7.00pm	Eugene Onegin	
Thu 19 Nov	7.00pm	Rigoletto	
Fri 20 Nov	7.00pm	Rigoletto	AD »»
Sat 21 Nov	7.00pm	Eugene Onegin	

Howard Assembly Room, Leeds

Fri 18 Dec	7.00pm	A Christmas Carol	
Sat 19 Dec	2.00pm	A Christmas Carol	
Sat 19 Dec	7.00pm	A Christmas Carol	
Sun 20 Dec	2.00pm	A Christmas Carol	
Sun 20 Dec	6.00pm	A Christmas Carol	
Tue 22 Dec	2.00pm	A Christmas Carol	
Tue 22 Dec	7.00pm	A Christmas Carol	
Wed 23 Dec	1.00pm	A Christmas Carol	
Wed 23 Dec	6.00pm	A Christmas Carol	
Thu 24 Dec	2.00pm	A Christmas Carol	


Leeds Grand Theatre

Mon 1 Feb	1.15pm	The Big Opera Mystery	
Fri 5 Feb	7.00pm	Don Giovanni	
Sun 7 Feb	2.00pm	Don Giovanni	 AD »»
Sat 13 Feb	7.00pm	Don Giovanni	
Fri 19 Feb	7.00pm	Dead Man Walking	
Sun 21 Feb	2.00pm	Don Giovanni	
Wed 24 Feb	7.00pm	Dead Man Walking	
Thu 25 Feb	TBC	Sing ON: Come and Sing	

Your 2026-27 year of opera

Fri 26 Feb	7.00pm	Don Giovanni
Sat 27 Feb	7.00pm	Dead Man Walking
Lowry, Salford Quays		
Wed 3 Mar	7.00pm	Don Giovanni
Thu 4 Mar	1.15pm	The Big Opera Mystery
Fri 5 Mar	7.00pm	Don Giovanni  AD)
Sat 6 Mar	7.00pm	Dead Man Walking
Theatre Royal, Newcastle		
Wed 10 Mar	7.00pm	Don Giovanni
Thu 11 Mar	1.15pm	The Big Opera Mystery
Fri 12 Mar	7.00pm	Don Giovanni  AD)
Sat 13 Mar	7.00pm	Dead Man Walking
Theatre Royal, Nottingham		
Wed 17 Mar	7.00pm	Don Giovanni
Thu 18 Mar	1.15pm	The Big Opera Mystery
Fri 19 Mar	7.00pm	Don Giovanni  AD)
Sat 20 Mar	7.00pm	Dead Man Walking
Hull New Theatre		
Thu 1 Apr	7.00pm	Don Giovanni
Fri 2 Apr	2.00pm	The Big Opera Mystery
Sat 3 Apr	2.00pm	Don Giovanni  AD)
St George's Hall, Bradford		
Fri 9 Apr	7.00pm	Orpheus
Sat 10 Apr	7.00pm	Orpheus
Liverpool Philharmonic Hall		
Tue 13 Apr	7.00pm	Orpheus
De Montfort Hall, Leicester		
Sun 18 Apr	7.00pm	Orpheus
Barbican, London		
Thu 22 Apr	7.00pm	Orpheus
Leeds Playhouse		
Sat 24 Apr	7.00pm	Orpheus
Sun 25 Apr	3.00pm	Orpheus
Bridgewater Hall, Manchester		
Sun 9 May	4.00pm	Tristan und Isolde
Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham		
Thu 13 May	5.00pm	Tristan und Isolde
Symphony Hall, Birmingham		
Sat 15 May	4.00pm	Tristan und Isolde
Leeds Town Hall		
Dates TBC		Tristan und Isolde

AD) Audio described performance

 Sign interpreted performance for D/deaf and hard of hearing bookers

RP Relaxed performance for bookers who require a more relaxed environment

Best ticket options

From **£19** for opera tickets

Up to **15%** discount and exclusive advantages with opera packages in Leeds

Up to **15%** discount with multi-buy offers on tour

£20 for new to opera tickets

£15 for under 30s members

£10 for children

FREE tickets for 16-20s in Leeds
(with under 30s memberships)

FREE essential companion tickets for Access Members

Discount for groups and schools



How to book

In Leeds

Online

Visit operanorth.co.uk or email boxoffice@operanorth.co.uk.

By phone

Call **0113 223 3600**. Phone lines are open 12.00pm – 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Visit our Box Office at:

32 New Briggate, Leeds LS1 6NU

Opening times

12.00pm – 2.00pm, Monday to Friday, and from one hour before, and until 30 minutes after the start of a show. Appointments outside opening hours are available on request.

On tour

See information on relevant tour venue websites.

Booking fees

All ticket prices include a non-refundable £2.50 booking fee. The income generated from booking fees helps Opera North to continue putting on high-quality performances. Note that booking fees may vary on tour.

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Become a Friend today!

Start your membership for as little as £5 per month

operanorth.co.uk/support-us/friends



Thanks to the support of our Friends, we are continuing to create **extraordinary experiences** for audiences and communities across the north of England.

Our award-winning schools' programme, In Harmony, now provides **music lessons** in 13 schools, Melodic Memories welcomes adults living with dementia to engage in music making **workshops**, and **relaxed performances** allow the theatre to be an exciting and accessible place for all. Every year, we are working on **bold new collaborations** and **innovative productions**, inviting every generation to engage in music and opera.



Making an impact

Last year, Opera North:

Played to **115,514** people in **32** places

Delivered **8,093** education sessions

Gave **3,300** children music and singing lessons every week

Engaged **1,134** people in community and family activity

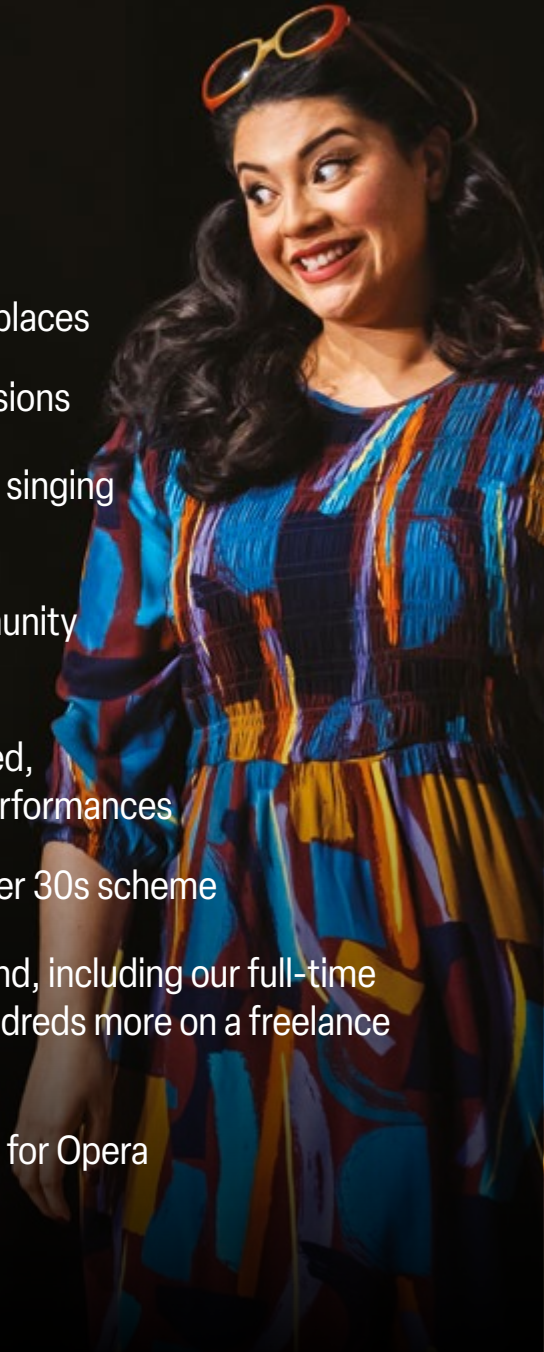
Programmed **19** audio described, BSL interpreted and relaxed performances

Had **7,198** members in our Under 30s scheme

Employed **240** people year round, including our full-time Orchestra and Chorus, and hundreds more on a freelance and seasonal basis

Won the **2025 Sky Arts Award** for Opera

Statistics quoted are for 2024-25
Photograph: *The Marriage of Figaro*, 2026 (Tristram Kenton)





Access

At Opera North we work hard to ensure everyone can enjoy our performances, both in Leeds and on tour. We offer the following:

- English subtitles at all opera performances
- Relaxed performances in Leeds
- BSL interpreted performances
- Audio-described performances
- Touch tours (before audio-described performances)
- Audio introductions available on our website
- Large print, audio or braille programmes and brochures – please get in touch
- Discounts and FREE essential companion tickets for Access Members

Find out more: operanorth.co.uk/access

Get in touch: access@operanorth.co.uk or **0113 223 3600**

Photograph: Tom Arber



Orchestra In Concert

Opera North's own orchestra is unique among British orchestras in performing a year-round programme of opera and concerts. Each and every player is passionate about making great music live for audiences of all kinds in all kinds of places.

Highlights of the 2026-27 concert season include:

- Music Director **Garry Walker** conducting Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony and Mahler's Ninth
- Principal Guest Conductor **Antony Hermus** in Debussy, Ravel and Richard Strauss
- Internationally-renowned guest conductors **Ryan Wigglesworth** and **Erina Yashima**
- **Home Alone** – film with live orchestra at Leeds Grand Theatre and Bradford Live
- Intimate **chamber concerts** with members of the Orchestra

Full details of the 2026-27 Kirklees Concert Season will be announced in June

Find out more:
operanorth.co.uk/orchestra

Photograph: Music Director Garry Walker
(Justin Slee)



Howard Assembly Room

The Howard Assembly Room is Opera North's thriving venue in the heart of Leeds. With its beautiful, characterful surroundings and brilliant acoustics, it's the perfect place to experience exceptional music-making from around the world.

The programme features everything from folk to rock, jazz to contemporary classical. The regular Distilled strand puts members of Opera North's acclaimed Chorus and Orchestra in the spotlight in hour-long concerts which open up fresh perspectives on chamber music.

If you're looking for a uniquely special spot to hire for a business or private event, we'd love to share our spaces with you. The beautifully refurbished building with its fabulous atrium space combines heritage with up-to-date facilities.

The newly-opened HAR bar is the perfect place for cocktails and Kirkstall ales (including Hopera North!).

We look forward to giving you a proper Yorkshire welcome!

Find us at thehar.com

Photograph: Timba Británica at the HAR, 2024
(Sam Hopkins)



Learning

Schools

Alongside delivering the widely admired **In Harmony** programme to over 3,200 young people each week in 13 schools, Opera North provides an annual creative arts offer to all schools, including two opportunities in February and March 2027: **The Big Opera Mystery**, a primary schools' matinee for schoolchildren in Key Stage 2 and a **Creative Industries Insight Day** for secondary schools, which will include workshops and a performance of *Don Giovanni* adapted for schools at Leeds Grand Theatre.

Talent Development

Opera North's Talent Development programmes give young people experience in singing, instrumental music and performance. They include weekly choirs for ages 8–21, orchestral training, and specialist development for soloists. Participants rehearse and perform alongside professionals, build musical skills and confidence, and explore creativity in a supportive environment.

Discover what we do and find out more:

operanorth.co.uk/participate

Photograph: Young Musicians' Studio, 2023
(Tom Arber)



Engagement

Opera North provides opportunities for adults to actively engage with the Company throughout the year.

The 2026-27 Season sees the launch of a new monthly **Dementia Café** whilst **From Couch to Chorus** returns with an opportunity to sing with the Chorus of Opera North as part of a final live / online hybrid performance on Wednesday 11 November 2026.

The popular **Sing ON** series continues with **Sing ON: Christmas Special** on Monday 7 December 2026; **Come and Sing** with the Orchestra of Opera North in Leeds Grand Theatre on Thursday 25 February 2027 and **Sing ON: Opera Chorus** during March 2027.

For more information, visit: operanorth.co.uk/participate or contact the Community Engagement team at lifelonglearning@operanorth.co.uk

Photograph: Sing ON: Come and Sing at Leeds Grand Theatre, February 2026 (Charlie Swinbourne)



Families

Every year, Opera North presents performances for families in Leeds and across the north of England.

In addition to performances and activity presented in the Howard Assembly Room in Leeds, Opera North has delivered family shows, concerts and events in community settings and small-scale venues across Yorkshire, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, County Durham, Nottingham, Hull, north-east Lincolnshire and Greater Manchester.

‘Opera North ticks all the boxes in this full-house children’s matinee at the Leeds Grand Theatre... perfect introduction to opera’

The Reviews Hub on The Big Opera Mystery, October 2025

To see what’s on in 2026-27, keep an eye on the ‘For Families’ section on our website:

operanorth.co.uk/whats-on

Photograph: members of the audience at *The Big Opera Mystery*, 2025 (Tom Arber)



The Big Opera Mystery

Schools matinee performances

An expert thief is on the loose, and only you can catch them! Bring your thinking-caps, your magnifying glasses and all your crime-solving skills: this is a mystery like no other, where the suspects are some of the greatest opera characters of all time – and the detective is YOU!

This operatic extravaganza, with music played live by the Orchestra of Opera North, will give hundreds of schoolchildren in Leeds, Salford, Newcastle and Nottingham an inspiring first encounter with opera in the spring of 2027. There is also a public performance for families during the Easter holidays at Hull New Theatre.

Writer and Director Jonathan Ainscough
Set and Costume Designer Bek Palmer
Lighting Designer Mike Lock

Sung in English with English titles
Lasts approximately 1 hour (no interval)

Photograph: Trystan Llŷr Griffiths and
Lauren Young in *The Big Opera Mystery*,
2025 (Tom Arber)



Nevill Holt Festival

Following the success of *Così fan tutte* last year, Opera North's five-year partnership with the Nevill Holt Festival in Leicestershire continues in summer 2026 with *Don Pasquale* (1843), Donizetti's classic *opera buffa*. This fast-paced comic masterpiece brims with sharp wit, romantic intrigue and sparkling music.

Step into the golden age of Italian cinema with this stylish new production directed by James Hurley (*La rondine*) and set in an independent film studio in mid-1960s Rome. Fizzing with wit, glamour and cinematic flair, *Don Pasquale* blends comedy with the romance and nostalgia of Italy's film-making heyday.

A new Opera North production for the 2027 Festival will be announced later this year.

For more information and to book, please visit:
nevillholtfestival.com

Don Pasquale

May 29, 31; Jun 3, 5, 7

Cast includes

Don Pasquale Grant Doyle

Norina Harriet Eyley

Ernesto Aaron Godfrey-Mayes

Malatesta Henry Neill

Conductor Michael Papadopoulos

Director James Hurley

Set and Costume Designer

Elliott Squire

Lighting Designer

Ben Pickersgill

THE SOUND OF MUSIC



Music by RICHARD RODGERS

Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

Book by HOWARD LINDSAY and RUSSEL GROUSE

Suggested by "The Trapp Family Singers" by Maria Augusta Trapp

Based on the Curve production

9 JUL – 1 AUG

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the GRAND
Theatre & Opera House Leeds

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Cover:
Rigoletto, 2022:
Jasmine Habersham as Gilda (Olive Barda)

Inside front cover:
Don Giovanni, 2018: the Company (Bill Cooper)

Inside back cover:
The Orchestra of Opera North with conductor Patrick Lange at a stage rehearsal of *The Magic Flute*, 2025 (Charlie Swinbourne)



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