



Valerie Barber PR

**The Grange Festival's 2019 season includes new productions of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Verdi's *Falstaff* and Handel's *Belshazzar* (6 June – 6 July)**

"In all it's a terrific show, and the only Handel production I've ever seen which obeys the old showbiz principle: leave your audience wanting more." – *The Daily Telegraph* on Handel's *Agrippina*, June 2018

The Grange Festival's 2019 annual summer season, set to run from 6 June to 6 July 2019, brings a world-class programme of opera and dance to the idyllic setting of The Grange, Hampshire. The critically acclaimed festival includes new productions of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* and Verdi's *Falstaff* together with a landmark staging of Handel's *Belshazzar* and the return of *Dance@TheGrange* and the John Wilson Orchestra.

This year's opera festival opens on 6 June with Martin Lloyd-Evans's new production of *Le nozze di Figaro*. The Academy of Ancient Music, conducted by Richard Egarr, will be joined by a compelling cast that includes Roberto Lorenzi and Wallis Giunta. West End and Royal Shakespeare Company director Christopher Luscombe stages his first ever opera, Verdi's *Falstaff*, in his return to The Grange Festival after the success of *Candide* last year. Francesco Cilluffo also returns to the festival for *Falstaff*, having conducted Verdi's Requiem at The Grange in 2017. He will direct a cast led by Robert Hayward in the title role. As part of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, the choir and orchestra of The Sixteen join forces with The Grange Festival Chorus under Harry Christophers to perform Handel's rarely staged dramatic oratorio *Belshazzar*, in a production directed by Daniel Slater.

The festival, which was launched in June 2017 with renowned counter-tenor Michael Chance as its Artistic Director, continues its fruitful residency partnerships with The Academy of Ancient Music and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra this year. Its artistic vision recognises the fundamental importance of storytelling to opera, brought to life at The Grange by a combination of musical, visual and dramatic arts. The festival emphasizes the importance of engaging world-class artists and production teams to create work that conveys profound emotions with the utmost clarity and power. John Copley's staging of *Albert Herring* in 2017 was nominated in the best opera category for the 2018 South Bank Sky Arts Awards, while Tim Supple's fresh take on Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* was praised by the *Financial Times* for its 'affecting simplicity'. The festival's 2018 season included a strikingly perceptive staging of Handel's *Agrippina* which was greeted by five-star reviews in the *Guardian*, *Telegraph* and *Independent*.

General booking opens on 5 March 2019.

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## **The Grange Festival performance dates**

**6, 8, 14, 19, 23, 30 June 2019**

**The Grange, Northington**

[Event page](#)

**Richard Egarr** conductor | **Martin Lloyd-Evans** director | **Toby Girling** Count | **Simona Mihai** Countess | **Ellie Laugharne** Susanna | **Roberto Lorenzi** Figaro | **Wallis Giunta** Cherubino | **Louise Winter** Marcellina | **Ben Johnson** Basilio | **Jonathan Best** Bartolo | **Richard Suart** Antonio | **Rowan Pierce** Barbarina | **The Academy of Ancient Music**

Mozart *Le nozze di Figaro*

**7, 9, 15, 21, 29 June**

**The Grange, Northington**

[Event page](#)

**Francesco Cilluffo** conductor | **Christopher Luscombe** director | **Robert Hayward** Falstaff | **Nicholas Lester Ford** | **Alessandro Fisher** Fenton | **Graham Clark** Dr Cajus | **Christopher Gillett** Bardolfo | **Pietro di Bianco** Pistola | **Elin Pritchard** Alice | **Rhian Lois** Nannetta | **Susan Bickley** Quickly | **Angela Simkin** Meg Page | **The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**

Verdi *Falstaff*

**20, 22, 28 June, 4, 6 July**

**The Grange, Northington**

[Event page](#)

**Harry Christophers** conductor | **Daniel Slater** director | **Robert Murray** Belshazzar | **Claire Booth** Nitocris | **Christopher Ainslie** Cyrus | **Henry Waddington** Gobrias | **James Laing** Daniel | **The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra**

Handel *Belshazzar*

**25, 26 June 2019**

**The Grange, Northington**

*Dance @TheGrange*

[Event page](#)

**Wayne McGregor** director of dance | **Thomas Adès** music | **Alessandra Ferri** | **Company Wayne McGregor**

*Outlier*

**Cathy Marston** choreographer | **Philip Feeney** music | **Ballet Black**

*The Suit*

**5 July 2019**

**The Grange, Northington**

[Event page](#)

**John Wilson** conductor | **The John Wilson Orchestra**

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