



## **World Premiere of William Thackeray opera**

**Sir Nicholas Jackson composes new opera based on William Thackeray's *The Rose and the Ring*,**

**First public performance will take place at Thackeray's old school at The Charterhouse in the centre of London in May**

Composer Sir Nicholas Jackson will be conducting his latest work, *The Rose and the Ring* on Wednesday 4 May at Drapers Livery Hall, followed by the first public performance at The Charterhouse, London on Thursday 5 May. The opera, based on the novel by William Thackeray will include an array of young and exciting singers, including Kathleen Ferrier Award finalist Robyn Parton and Handel Singing Competition finalist Edward Grint, as well as actor Nickolas Grace (*Brideshead Revisited*, *Robin of Sherwood*, *Doctor Who*). They will be joined by the 'Concertante of London', led by Madeleine Easton, who has recently performed with the 'English Baroque' soloists and the 'King's Consort'.

*The Rose and the Ring* is based on one of Thackeray's lesser known works, located in the fictional kingdom of Pafflagonia. Magic, royalty and romance dominate the themes of Thackeray's novel and for Nicholas, it was an obvious choice for an opera. "My Grandfather had known Thackeray's daughter and one day when rummaging through some books that I had inherited I came across a worn copy of her father's *The Rose & the Ring*. Although written as a 'children's pantomime' it is an equally good read for grown-ups with ingenious twists, I just couldn't believe that this had not occurred to anybody else".

The score is set to adaptations and orchestrations of keyboard sonatas by Scarlatti, a composer whose sonatas Sir Nicholas has had a long affiliation with. "As a harpsichordist I had performed and recorded about 40 of his sonatas and played through a great many more. I had also recently recorded for Nimbus my arrangement of one of his sonatas for Wind Quartet and Harpsichord. It has been said that all the sounds that Scarlatti would have heard, if he had opened a window of his house in 18th century Madrid, are contained in the microcosm of his 550 sonatas including flamenco dancing, castanets, the strumming of guitars and the wail of gypsy laments. But the gaiety of his music is sometimes overwhelmed by a surge of operatic passion."

The public premiere of this work will be staged at The Charterhouse (5 May) in the very same building Thackeray would have visited daily during his time at the school in the 19th century. On Saturday 7 May the cast will be recording the work in its entirety to be released later in the year. It will undoubtedly highlight Jackson's knowledgeable interpretation of Scarlatti as well as his dedication to raising the profile of exciting young artists.

<http://jacksonmusic.co.uk/>

For ticket enquiries please contact: **0207 253 9503, Ext. 2**

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**Wednesday 4 May 2016**  
**Draper's Livery Hall, 7.15pm**

**Robyn Parton** soprano | **Katherine Crompton** soprano | **Katie Coventry** mezzo soprano | **William Morgan** tenor | **Peter Aisher** tenor | **Edward Grint** bass | **Michael Mofidian** bass | **Concertante of London**

**Jackson** *The Rose and the Ring*

**Thursday 5 May, 2016**  
**The Charterhouse, 7.30pm**

**Robyn Parton** soprano | **Katherine Crompton** soprano | **Katie Coventry** mezzo soprano | **William Morgan** tenor | **Peter Aisher** tenor | **Edward Grint** bass | **Michael Mofidian** bass | **Concertante of London**

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