



Notable debuts and established names highlight The Grange Festival's 2023 season (8 June - 2 July)

The Grange Festival presents new productions of *Così fan tutte*, *Orfeo ed Euridice* / *Dido and Aeneas* and *The Queen of Spades*, followed by two nights of jazz celebrating the music of jazz legend Duke Ellington

"Quality and courage. With two excellent productions [Macbeth and Tamerlano], The Grange Festival confirms its excellence and uniqueness amongst European summer festivals." Musica, September 2022



Since its inception in 2017, The Grange Festival has swiftly developed a reputation as a destination venue for outstanding singers, top-notch conductors, world-class productions and discerning audiences – and the 2023 season is set to raise its standing amongst the cognoscenti even higher.

The Festival's continuing belief in presenting a wide repertoire sees four new productions (*Così fan tutte*, *Orfeo ed Euridice* / *Dido and Aeneas* and *The Queen of Spades*) by daring creative teams, with an impressive blend of young, talented singers and established names, notably Dame Josephine Barstow as the Countess in *The Queen of Spades*. Three great conductors -

Kirill Karabits, Harry Christophers and Paul Daniel – ensure that the customary musical standards remain as exceptional as ever. In addition to the Bournemouth Symphony (The Festival's resident orchestra), the season sees the welcome return of The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra. And in true Grange Festival style, the season finishes with a flourish with two not-to-be-missed evenings of jazz celebrating the extraordinary musical journey of the legendary American pianist and composer Duke Ellington.

Continuing its cycle of operas by Mozart, the 2023 season opens with a new production of the composer's much-loved *Così fan tutte* (8 to 24 June), with a cast of established Mozartians as the star-crossed lovers. Soprano Samantha Clarke, a memorable Tytania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2021, sings the role of Fiordiligi with mezzo-soprano Kitty Whately, a Festival favourite, as her sister Dorabella. Baritone Nicholas Lester, whose appearances with The Grange include Ford (*Falstaff*) and Lescaut (*Manon Lescaut*), returns as Guglielmo, whilst tenor Alessandro Fisher, winner of the 2016 Kathleen Ferrier Award, sings the role of Ferrando. Having both appeared at the Festival in *La Cenerentola* in 2021, Carolina Lippo now returns as Despina and Christian Senn, renowned as a Mozart interpreter, takes the role of the puppet master Don Alfonso. Ukrainian conductor Kirill Karabits, Chief Conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, makes his Festival debut in this new production by director Martin Lloyd-Evans and designer Dick Bird, whose previous collaboration for The Grange was *Mansfield Park* in 2017.

In a rare and dramatically contrasting pairing, The Grange Festival presents an enticing early music double-bill: Gluck's intensely moving *Orfeo ed Euridice* together with the first English opera, Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (9 to 28 June). Returning to The Grange after their much-lauded collaboration on *Belshazzar* in 2019 and *Tamerlano* in 2022, is the creative team of Daniel Slater (director) and Robert Innes Hopkins (designer). Tim Claydon, who also worked on *Belshazzar*, is the movement director. In *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Heather Lowe, a Samling Scholar previously heard at The Grange in 2021 as Angelina (*La Cenerentola*), sings Orfeo, whilst Sophie Bevan (Asteria in *Tamerlano*) returns as Euridice and Alexandra Oomens, a Harewood Artist with ENO, makes her festival debut as Amore. All three singers also appear in *Dido and Aeneas* - Heather Lowe as Dido, Sophie Bevan as Belinda and Alexandra Oomens as 2nd Woman. They are joined by two rising stars also making their debuts with The Grange - James Newby as Aeneas and Helen Charlston as Sorceress/Spirit. This stellar cast is accompanied by the Choir and Orchestra of The Sixteen under their founding director Harry Christophers, making a welcome return to The Grange after their triumphant rendition of *Belshazzar*.

The fourth new production of the season - Tchaikovsky's dramatic opera *The Queen of Spades*, based on Pushkin's short story - will be created by Paul Curran (who directed the magical *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2021) and designer Gary McCann, and conducted by Paul Daniel in his debut at The Grange Festival (23 June to 2 July). A strong international cast is led by Ukrainian tenor Eduard Martynyuk in the demanding central role

of Herman, with the acclaimed Armenian soprano Anush Hovhannisyanyan, a former Jette Parker Artist, as his love interest Liza. A second Ukrainian, baritone Andrei Kymach, winner of the prestigious Cardiff Singer of the World Competition in 2019, makes his Festival debut as Count Tomsky alongside Russian baritone Ilya Kutuyukhin as Prince Yeletsky and British bass Edwin Kaye as Surin. Returning to the Festival are British tenor David Webb as Chekalinsky, Christopher Gillett as Chaplitsky / Master of Ceremonies and Lucy Schauer as Governess. Claire Barnett-Jones, winner of the Dame Joan Sutherland Audience Prize at the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition 2021, sings the role of Polina. The line-up is completed with the dream casting of Dame Josephine Barstow as the Countess.

Following the huge success of its first foray into jazz in 2022, The Grange Festival will close its 2023 season with *Ellington: From Stride to Strings* - two nights in celebration of the extraordinary musical life of Duke Ellington, one of the jazz world's most ground-breaking composers (30 June, 1 July). The evolution of Ellington's music will be reimagined by a sextet of virtuoso musicians led by renowned trumpeter Dominick Farinacci, featuring iconic numbers such as *Mood Indigo*, *Satin Doll* and *Take the A Train*. These six musicians will then be joined by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra opening the second half of the evening with *New World A-Comin'*, featuring virtuoso pianist Mathis Picard. This will be followed by two specially commissioned works by Ethan Iverson, a composer and pianist known for his bold re-imaginings of familiar works: *A Duke Ellington Symphonic Fantasy* and a high-energy arrangement for orchestra and jazz sextet of the iconic *C Jam Blues*.

Artistic Director Michael Chance comments: "Our 2023 festival is full of memorable music. Whether it is Orpheus singing of his deep loss, or Dido lamenting before her death, or the two unsuspecting young women wishing their fiancées a calm voyage away from Naples, or Prince Yeletsky's powerful aria, these are all much anticipated operatic moments. And then we give you Duke Ellington. My expectations are high."

General booking opens on 1 March 2023.

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Please note the start time of 17:00 for all performances.

Mozart *Così fan tutte*

8, 10, 16, 18, 24 June 2023

[Event page](#)

Kirill Karabits conductor | **Martin Lloyd-Evans** director | **Dick Bird** designer | **Samantha Clarke** Fiordiligi | **Kitty Whately** Dorabella | **Nicholas Lester** Guglielmo | **Alessandro Fisher** Ferrando | **Carolina Lippo** Despina | **Christian Senn** Don Alfonso | **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra**

Gluck *Orfeo ed Euridice* / Purcell *Dido and Aeneas*

9, 17, 22, 28 June 2023

[Event page](#)

Harry Christophers conductor | **Daniel Slater** director | **Robert Innes Hopkins** designer | **Tim Claydon** associate director and choreographer | **The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra**

Orfeo ed Euridice: Heather Lowe Orfeo | **Sophie Bevan** Euridice | **Alexandra Oomens** Amore
Dido and Aeneas: Heather Lowe Dido | **Sophie Bevan** Belinda | **Alexandra Oomens** 2nd Woman | **James Newby** Aeneas | **Helen Charlston** Sorceress/Spirit

Tchaikovsky *The Queen of Spades*

23, 25, 29 June, 2 July 2023

[Event page](#)

Paul Daniel conductor | **Paul Curran** director | **Gary McCann** designer | **Eduard Martynyuk** Herman
| **Andrei Kymach** Count Tomsy | **Ilya Kutjukhin** Prince Yeletsky | **David Webb** Chekalinsky | **Edwin
Kaye** Surin | **Christopher Gillett** Chaplitsky / Master of Ceremonies | **Josephine Barstow** Countess
| **Anush Hovhannisyan** Liza | **Claire Barnett-Jones** Polina | **Lucy Schauer** Governess | **Bournemouth
Symphony Orchestra**

Jazz @ The Grange *Ellington: From Stride to Strings*

30 June, 1 July 2023

[Event page](#)

Dominick Farinacci band leader and trumpet | **Patrick Bartley, Jr.** alto saxophone
| **Christian Tamburr** vibraphone | **Mathis Picard** piano | **Yasushi Nakamura** bass | **Jerome Jennings** drums
| **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra** | **Piers Playfair** producer | **Frankie Parham** producer | **Ethan
Iverson** composer and arranger