

A woman in a baroque-style costume with a light green dress and a patterned shawl looks towards a man in profile. The background is a dense thicket of green leaves and purple flowers. The text 'ENGLISH TOURING OPERA' is overlaid in the top right corner.

ENGLISH  
TOURING  
OPERA

Decorative white floral and vine patterns are overlaid on the bottom right of the image, framing the 'BAROQUE FESTIVAL' text.

BAROQUE FESTIVAL

INCLUDING OPERAS BY MONTEVERDI, CAVALLI, HANDEL & PURCELL

# Welcome & Tour Schedule

This touring festival of baroque opera is a celebration of opera at its earliest, and some would say its best!

With five productions, eighteen singers (singing in several operas), one actor and a baroque orchestra (including theorboes, sackbuts and cornetts!) this is our most ambitious season yet. Alongside the operas, our outreach projects include a new work for children (see page 7), and there will be plenty more ways to get involved – have a look at the pull-out section of this brochure for details of the workshops, recitals and extra events that are happening in your area.

I look forward to seeing you at the Festival.

## James Conway

General Director, English Touring Opera

**Hackney Empire** 020 8985 2424  
06/10 Orfeo  
07/10 Erismena  
13/10 Tolomeo  
14/10 Dido/Jephte

**Cambridge Arts Theatre** 01223 503 333  
18/10 Erismena  
19/10 Tolomeo  
20/10 Dido/Jephte  
21/10 Orfeo

**Northcott Theatre, Exeter** 01392 493 493  
24/10 Erismena  
25/10 Orfeo  
26/10 Dido/Jephte  
27/10 Tolomeo  
28/10 Orfeo

**Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury** 01227 787 787  
30/10 Orfeo

**Friary Church Hall, Crawley** 01293 553 636  
31/10 Dido/Jephte (semi-staged)

**Theatre Royal, Lincoln** 01522 525 555  
03/11 Tolomeo  
04/11 Orfeo

**York Centre for Early Music** 01904 658 338  
06/11 Erismena (concert performance)

**Snappe Maltings Concert Hall** 01728 687 110  
09/11 Dido/Jephte  
10/11 Tolomeo  
11/11 Orfeo

**Buxton Opera House** 0845 12 72190  
13/11 Orfeo  
14/11 Tolomeo

**Coronation Hall, Ulverston** 01229 587 140  
17/11 Erismena  
18/11 Dido/Jephte

**Festival Theatre, Malvern** 01684 892 277  
21/11 Tolomeo  
22/11 Dido/Jephte  
23/11 Orfeo  
24/11 Erismena  
25/11 Orfeo

**Theatre Royal, Bath** 01225 448844  
28/11 Erismena  
29/11 Orfeo  
30/11 Tolomeo  
01/12 Dido/Jephte  
02/12 Orfeo



Supported (2006) by

PETER MOORES FOUNDATION

# Cavalli's Erismena

**Cavalli was a pupil of Monteverdi and the most popular operatic composer of his day, writing effortlessly accessible, tuneful works for a city in the grip of opera-mania – at the time he wrote *Erismena*, Venice had sixteen opera houses!**

*Erismena* is a light-hearted, erotic comedy in which the course of true love runs anything but smoothly. It was a great favourite of English tourists to the Venetian carnival, to whom the themes of forbidden love and unbounded hope appealed, so it became the first Italian opera performed in this country. ETO uses a poetic 17th century English translation – discovered on the back of an order for ship's biscuits!

Joseph Alford, director of critically acclaimed physical theatre company Theatre O, revives James Conway's joyous original production, with Rachel Nicholls in the title role; Brian Gordon, who sang in the only other UK production of *Erismena* for 300 years, conducts the specialist baroque ensemble.

**Conductor**  
Brian Gordon

**Director**  
James Conway

**Revival Director**  
Joseph Alford

**Designer**  
Rodney Grant

**Cast**  
Jonathan Peter Kenny, Laura Mitchell,  
Rachel Nicholls, Patricia Orr, Huw  
Rhys-Evans, Andrew Slater, David Stout

**Ensemble**  
Strings, recorders, theorbo, harp, organ,  
harpichord



**"A cracking piece"**  
The Evening Standard

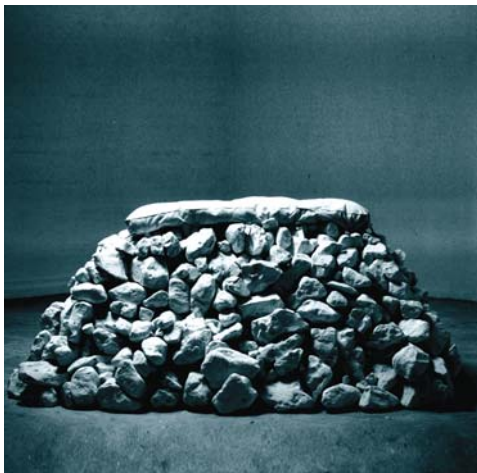
**"Staged with sensuous clarity"**  
The Guardian

Sample some of the strange, sexy and soaring music from *Erismena* at:  
[www.englishtouringopera.org.uk/erismedia.php](http://www.englishtouringopera.org.uk/erismedia.php)

## Sung in English

This production is generously supported by The Helena Oldacre Trust

# Monteverdi's Orfeo



The story of Orfeo's epic journey into the underworld in search of his lost bride is exhilarating and inspiring. Monteverdi's masterpiece is one of the first and greatest of operas, celebrating the best of man even as it records his tragic failings.

ETO's new production uses ritual and sacrifice to explore this famous story of love, loss and the power of music. It will be played by a taut ensemble in a chalky setting inspired by sculptor Kathy Prendergast.

Tenor Hal Cazalet, our agile, pure-toned Lysander (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and Tobias (*Tobias and the Angel*) sings the title role.

**Conductor**  
**Robert Howarth**

**Director**  
**James Conway**

**Installation Designer**  
**Kathy Prendergast**

**Associate Designer**  
**Ellen Dowell**

**Lighting Designer**  
**Matthew Haskins**

**Cast**  
**Susan Atherton, Hal Cazalet, Sean Clayton, Huw Rhys-Evans, Jane Harrington, Katherine Manley, Martin Robson, David Stout, Joana Thomé**

**Ensemble**  
**Strings, sackbuts, cornetts, theorboes, harp, regal, organ, harpsichord**

Sung in English

# Handel's Tolomeo

A revival of the ETO/London Handel Festival co-production which played to sold-out audiences earlier this year, *Tolomeo* is a soulful masterpiece.

One of Handel's simplest narratives tells of two shipwrecked sons of Cleopatra who play out their terrible mother's ambitions on a remote coastline. In love with these brothers (originally sung by famous castrati) are female characters who were played by great divas of the day, known ever after as 'the warring queens'. Tolomeo's famous poison aria, "Stille amare", remains one of the most effective moments in the history of opera; another song from the score has been quoted ever since, most recently sung by Ewan McGregor and Gwyneth Paltrow in the film of Austen's *Emma*.

*Tolomeo* is directed from the harpsichord by Laurence Cummings (Artistic Director of the London Handel Festival), with celebrated Handel interpreter Jonathan Peter Kenny (Polinesso in ETO's *Ariodante*) in the title role.

**Conductor**  
**Laurence Cummings**

**Director**  
**James Conway**

**Designer**  
**Michael Vale**

**Lighting Designer**  
**Matthew Haskins**

**Cast**  
**Jonathan Peter Kenny, Katherine Manley, Iestyn Morris, Rachel Nicholls, Andrew Slater**

**Ensemble**  
**Strings, oboes, recorders, bassoon, theorboes, harpsichord**



**"Compelling and entertaining characterisation... consistently energised, stylish and sympathetic."**  
Independent on Sunday

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

# Purcell's Dido & Aeneas & Carissimi's Jephthe



## Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas*

A soldier stops to rest in an unknown country, wins the love of the queen, and moves on; the queen, once all-powerful, is destroyed by grief. Virgil's famous story of joy and despair has never been told more affectingly than in this, the first great English opera. Full of charm, of the dark passions of the Sorceress and the nobility of the forsaken queen, *Dido* is unforgettable.

Directed by Helen Eastman, this new production stars Brazilian soprano Joana Thomé as Dido (pictured) and rising English baritone David Stout as her lover.

## Performed with Carissimi's *Jephthe*

A man vows that in exchange for victory in war he will sacrifice to God the first person he meets on return – an oath that comes to haunt him when his daughter rushes to welcome him home. Based on the same Old Testament story that Handel used for his famous oratorio a century later, *Jephthe* is a ravishing lament, and an ideal partner for *Dido and Aeneas*.

Dancer Bernadette Iglich stages (for the first time, as far as we know) this brief, moving oratorio, directed from the harpsichord by Matthew Halls.

**Conductor**  
Matthew Halls

**Director (*Dido and Aeneas*)**  
Helen Eastman

**Director (*Jephthe*)**  
Bernadette Iglich

**Designer**  
Michael Vale

**Lighting Designer**  
Neil Brinkworth

**Singers**  
Susan Atherton, Sean Clayton, Jane Harrington, Laura Mitchell, Iestyn Morris, Patricia Orr, Martin Robson, David Stout, Joana Thomé

**Ensemble**  
Strings, theorboes, harpsichord

Sung in English (*Dido and Aeneas*) and Latin (*Jephthe*) with English surtitles

# English Touring Opera Outreach

This season and next sees ETO working with every kind of group in the community. Our production of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* will involve the participation of adult choirs around the country, and is also the basis of a new work for primary schools and family audiences: *Crossing the Styx*. This collaboration with theatre company Wonderful Beast includes music by Rachel Leach and words by Claude Harz. Singers, actors and players will retell the famous Orpheus myth, bringing the underworld to life – and death – through songs, latin dancing, the sound of the sackbut, and shadow puppetry.

Next season, we are planning a very ambitious new community opera in association with the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton. *A House on the Moon* tells the story of young people as they travel from distant homelands to seek refuge in this country. Leading artists (composers, writers, filmmakers and musicians) from Afghanistan, India, Iraq and the UK will work with young people and adults in the West Midlands to create and perform this work in June 2007. Meanwhile, we continue to deliver creative workshops and residencies in mainstream and special schools. Our CD-Rom *The Labyrinth* is a practical guide to devising music-theatre for teachers in special schools, and is free on request.

If you are interested in being part of our outreach programme please contact Tim Yealland, or if you would like to sponsor a particular project or donate to ETO Outreach please contact Andrew Higgins.

tim.yealland@englishtouringopera.org.uk  
andrew.higgins@englishtouringopera.org.uk  
Phone: 020 7833 2555



**"It was absolutely superb. It allowed students to be involved in something completely outside their experience (and staff and parents too!) The students gained in self-confidence, self-esteem and self-discipline – priceless!"**

Liz Howie, Oakes Park Special School, on ETO's community opera *One Breath*

**"I felt I was in heaven."**

Ben, aged 7½, Edleston Primary, on *The (Little) Magic Flute*

# English Touring Opera Friends

## Help to keep us on the road!

We'd love to return to your area, but do you know that ticket sales only generate a third of the funds we need? That's why your support is crucial in making sure that ETO continues to visit the parts of the country that other opera companies don't reach. For less than £2 a month, you can become an ETO Friend and play a crucial part in keeping this "people's opera house on wheels" on the road.

## Friend £20 Individual Membership:

Priority booking at all theatres, advance information about ETO's tours, instant access to our ETO local networks, receive our press releases, opportunity to meet other opera enthusiasts, opportunity to volunteer.

## Best Friend £30 / As Friend plus:

Opportunity to observe our educational programmes and community work, 10% savings on entrance to ETO events (study days and recitals).

## Associate £50 / As Best Friend plus:

A complimentary programme in advance of the tour, your name in the programme and on the ETO website, free entry to pre show talks and ETO events (study days and recitals), as well as attendance at open dress rehearsals in London.

For more information about all levels of membership, please contact Esyllt Wyn Owen at [esyllt.wynowen@englishtouringopera.org.uk](mailto:esyllt.wynowen@englishtouringopera.org.uk)

## ETO Patrons' Circle

**£225 Single / £275 Joint Membership:** Patrons enjoy exclusive access to the heart of ETO and are invited to attend working rehearsals, receptions with the General Director and participate in outreach events. For more information please contact Andrew Higgins on 020 7833 2555 or [andrew.higgins@englishtouringopera.org.uk](mailto:andrew.higgins@englishtouringopera.org.uk)

## Application form

To become an ETO Friend either join online at [www.englishtouringopera.org.uk](http://www.englishtouringopera.org.uk), or complete the form below and send it to: Membership Administrator, ETO, 52-54 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RP

I enclose a cheque made payable to English Touring Opera for:

- Friend £20  
 Best Friend £30  
 Associate £50  
 Patron £225 (individual)  
 Patron £275 (joint)

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Full name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick if you prefer not to be credited:

- programme  website

*giftaid it*

Using Gift Aid means that for every £10 you give, we get an extra £2.80 from the Inland Revenue at no extra cost to you. Please help us to make your donation go further by signing below.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# VENUE SPECIFIC INFO

# ENGLISH TOURING OPERA

To learn more about ETO and the baroque festival, and to hear music clips from the operas, please visit our website: [www.englishtouringopera.org.uk](http://www.englishtouringopera.org.uk)

The screenshot shows the English Touring Opera website. At the top, the text 'ENGLISH TOURING OPERA' is displayed in large, bold letters. Below this, a quote from The Guardian reads: "English Touring Opera is proving to be one of the most vital operatic ventures in the country." To the right of the quote is a small image of two women in period costume. Below the quote is a navigation menu with links: ETO PRODUCTIONS, TOUR DIARY, SUPPORTING ETO, ABOUT ETO, EDUCATION, PRESS CENTRE, CONTACT US, and SITE MAP. Below the navigation menu are two buttons: 'BUY TICKETS' and 'JOIN ETO ONLINE'. To the right of these buttons is the text 'BOOKING NOW: ETO'S AUTUMN 2006 BAROQUE FESTIVAL TOUR'. Below this is a grid of four images showing scenes from the festival. To the left of the grid is a section titled 'ETO NEWS' with three paragraphs of text. Below the grid is a paragraph of text describing the festival.

**ENGLISH TOURING OPERA**

*"English Touring Opera is proving to be one of the most vital operatic ventures in the country"*  
The Guardian

ETO PRODUCTIONS | TOUR DIARY | SUPPORTING ETO | ABOUT ETO | EDUCATION | PRESS CENTRE | CONTACT US | SITE MAP

BUY TICKETS | JOIN ETO ONLINE

**BOOKING NOW: ETO'S AUTUMN 2006 BAROQUE FESTIVAL TOUR**

**ETO NEWS**

Prepare for ETO's Autumn 2006 Baroque Festival Opera Tour by sampling music from the operas on our media page. Just posted three clips from Cavalli's strange and sexy *Erismena*.

This autumn ETO mounts a baroque festival tour - save when you purchase festival packages at autumn venues!

Through a new partnership with Charity Choice you can sign up to become an ETO Friend and support the work of the company anytime online with any major debit or credit card.

This autumn, ETO will bring a troupe of 20 players, 15 singers, 2 actors, 4 conductors a choreographer, technicians and amateurs throughout the UK, taking part in a mobile festival from opera's first 100 odd years. Alongside, we will work with local music groups to offer a programme of recitals and community based collaborations.