

# ENGLISH TOURING OPERA

Opera that ***moves***

## **DEPUTY CHAIR OF THE BOARD**



English Touring Opera is seeking exceptional candidates for the position of Deputy Chair of the Board, as part of a programme of succession planning and wider Board renewal. The Deputy Chair will play a key role on the Board as we develop our work in the post-Covid world and secure our funding into the future.

### **ETO HISTORY**

For over 40 years, English Touring Opera (ETO) has held a unique place in the opera industry as the only mid-scale touring company offering regional venues, and thousands of audiences, outstanding live productions and impactful Learning and Participation projects, across a significant national footprint.

At the heart of our ethos is a commitment to touring ambitious programmes of high-quality, innovative, and unjustly-underperformed opera that engages and inspires audiences. We reach over 40,000 people every year through five mainstage productions of ambitious, high-quality, opera. Touring across the largest geographical reach of any UK company, from Truro to Perth, ETO serves over 20 towns and cities with severely limited access to other live performance.

ETO's award-winning Learning and Participation Programme annually engages over 12,000 children and adults nationwide through two specially commissioned operas for children and young people with special educational needs, a series of creative workshops for people with dementia and their carers, and more than 70 workshops for people of all abilities and ages.

ETO has earned a longstanding reputation for producing exceptional work. Recent awards include WhatsOnStage 'Best New Opera Production' (2017), Oliver Award 'Outstanding Achievement in Opera' (2014) and nominations at International Opera Awards (2019) and Young Audiences Music Awards (2020).



## **2021 PLANS & BEYOND**

2021 promises to be a characteristically ambitious year for ETO as we prepare for a great number of opportunities post-Covid. In spring 2021, ETO will launch a new season of digital work, filming a cross-century programme of dramatised song-cycles, motets and mono-operas for release on ETO's new, in-house digital platform. Works by Josquin des Prez, Machaut, Shostakovich and Elena Langer, will showcase ETO's distinctive artistic flavour: sharing new realisations of rare masterpieces, breathing dramatic life into early song and showcasing exceptional and challenging contemporary work, to audiences across the UK. Slated to lead filming is BAFTA-nominated Director, Tim van Someren, returning to ETO having filmed our autumn *Lyric Solitude* season, and extensive experience filming the National Theatre's *Frankenstein* and *War Horse*.

2021 marks a period of significant digital development. ETO will realise an ambitious new digital strategy built on hugely successful digital experiments piloted throughout 2020. Central to this is a new in-house, digital platform enabling audiences to stream our digital spring season directly at home, keeping music in our audiences', supporters' and stakeholders' lives. Having adapted much of our Learning and Participation Programme for digital delivery in 2020, this platform will also house a variety of bespoke digital learning resources, digital operas for children and infants and online workshops for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, meaning ETO continue to deliver important music projects to the families, children and schools that we serve and increase access to our work nationwide.

In autumn 2021, ETO return to live performance, producing and touring a new production of Handel's *Amadigi di Gaula*. Handel's encyclopaedic exploration of human love, this intimate work will reignite audiences' close emotional connection with live theatre through its universal themes of youth, love and hope, needed now more than ever. As specialists of the mid-scale, *Amadigi* will showcase ETO at our most successful, championing ambitious, live lyric theatre and offering thousands their first experience of this rare production.

ETO's Learning and Participation also returns to live delivery through a new commission for children in Key Stage One (aged 4-7), *Back into the World*. Especially designed to respond to the impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on children's mental health, wellbeing and happiness, *Back into the World* will bring interactive live opera, joy and creativity back into over 1,000 children's lives. ETO will tour this piece in a Covid-safe way to ten primary schools throughout the UK, and bring the most important topic affecting children to life in an accessible way.

ETO returns to a major season of live work in spring 2022, touring a new, ambitious production of Rimsky-Korsakov's political satire and captivating fairy-tale, *The Golden Cockerel*, the first new

UK production in 22 years, alongside a revival of ETO's highly-acclaimed 2015 production of Puccini's, *La bohème*.

## **CONTEXT**

There will be significant opportunities and challenges in the years ahead for the company and it is in that context that English Touring Opera are seeking exceptional candidates for the role of Deputy Chair of Trustees and independent wider Board renewal.

The Deputy Chair will play a key role in the development of English Touring Opera's future strategy, as we approach the formal presentation of that strategy to our principal funder, Arts Council England, to inform funding agreements from 2023 to 2026.

The Deputy Chair will serve as a proactive and compelling ambassador and advocate for the Company in these next exciting years. Candidates should bring a passion for, and some knowledge of, the UK's opera and wider arts scene. They will ideally have experience of working at board level, be well networked and have the experience required to play a central role in fundraising for the organisation.



## **ROLE PROFILE**

### **KEY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Play a key role in the development of the English Touring Opera vision for the future, contributing to its strategic leadership, sound management and proactive development.
- Act as a positive and enthusiastic ambassador for the organisation, advocating on its behalf, and representing its mission.
- Proactively support the approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- Support fundraising efforts and build networks on behalf of English Touring Opera.
- Support and in some cases lead relationships with key stakeholders and partners.
- Assist and support the Chair and act as a 'sounding board' to the Chair in the execution of his/her role.
- In the Chair's absence, deputise for the Chair as appropriate.
- Member of Nominations Committee.
- Assist and support the Chair in ensuring all Members of the Board, when taking up office, are fully briefed on the terms of their appointment and their duties and responsibilities.
- Available to colleague trustees for advice and support, including in any instances where they would prefer not to consult with the Chair directly.

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION**



The successful candidate will be a dynamic advocate for English Touring Opera and will bring all or most of the following:

- A knowledge of and passion for opera and the performing arts
- A demonstrable commitment to diversity and inclusivity
- A strong track record of leadership and the ability to be an effective communicator and ambassador
- Experience of working at board level, ideally with prior experience in a chairing capacity, whether in the commercial, public or charity sector, and a good understanding of governance
- A willingness to build the profile of English Touring Opera
- Well-networked and willing to use professional and personal contacts for the benefit of English Touring Opera



### **TERMS OF APPOINTMENT**

- This role is unremunerated.
- Length of service is one term of three years with the opportunity to extend to a second term, by mutual agreement.
- Time commitment is approximately 1-2 days per month including quarterly meetings and an annual awayday.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

Please email your CV (max. two pages) and a covering letter (max. one page), by **10.00am on 19 April**, to [holly.holt@englishtouringopera.org.uk](mailto:holly.holt@englishtouringopera.org.uk). In your cover letter, please outline why you are applying for the role and how your skills and experience make you a suitable candidate. Please include a completed equal opportunities monitoring form and quote DEPUTY CHAIR in the subject line. If you would like to discuss the role with a member of the Board, please email Holly Holt at the email address above and we will happily arrange a conversation.

