

Italian conductor Gianluca Marcianò returns to Grange Park Opera this summer to conduct a new production of Saint-Saëns' *Samson et Dalila* and Stephen Medcalf's production of Tchaikovsky's *Onegin*



**Saint-Saëns *Samson et Dalila***

Grange Park Opera  
June 20, 24 & 28 | July 4, 9, & 16  
Director **Patrick Mason**  
Conductor **Gianluca Marcianò**

**Tchaikovsky *Eugene Onegin***

Grange Park Opera  
July 10, 12, 15 & 18  
Director **Stephen Medcalf**  
Conductor **Gianluca Marcianò**

Full listings below

**"Behind the boyish charm, he is clearly a little wild at heart. His career has been entirely and delightfully unconventional to date, and his music-making is infused with a wide-eyed sense of discovery."** Opera Now

Italian conductor **Gianluca Marcianò** returns to **Grange Park Opera** this summer for his fifth consecutive year to conduct **Saint-Saëns' *Samson et Dalila*** in a new production by Irish director Patrick Mason, opening on 20 June. Marcianò will also be conducting the revival of Stephen Medcalf's production of **Tchaikovsky's *Onegin***, opening on 10 July. Following the first run in 2013, Stephen Medcalf's **"intelligently traditional"** (Robert Hugill) production of *Onegin* returns with Canadian baritone Brett Polegato and soprano Susan Gritton as the same lead roles. To watch a trailer from the 2013 production click he Marcianò also has strong ties with the opera houses in Zagreb, Minsk, Sassari and Prague.



Director of *Samson et Dalila* Patrick Mason explains: **"Writing at a time of rising anti-Semitism in Europe and the corresponding emergence of the Zionist movement, Saint-Saëns turned to the biblical story of the catastrophic passion of the Hebrew warrior Samson, and the Philistine princess Dalila to create his most famous opera. This new production plays out their story of obsessive love and implacable hatred against the rising political and racial tensions of France in the 1930's."**

Enterprising conductor Gianluca Marcianò is the Artistic Director of the Al Bustan Festival in Beirut, which has presented the first Wagner opera in the Middle East and this year the Middle Eastern premiere of Bellini's *Norma* with Carmen Giannattasio in the lead role. Lebanon's first female Member of Parliament – Myrna Bustani - founded the Festival in 1994 as the Middle East's most high-profile platform for international classical virtuosi, symphony orchestras and opera companies. Bustani received an IAMA Award in 2014 for her valuable work and dedication to promoting music in the Middle East through the Festival.

*"His (Gianluca Marciano's) conviction that music has a role in the aftermath of war gained credence from a powerfully cathartic performance of Norma. Many were in tears...but the emotive crux was the priestess who pulls back from the brink, realizing that the pursuit of vendetta is a crime against the innocent."*

**Guardian Review by Maya Jaggi** about *Norma* with the **State Youth Orchestra of Armenia** and soprano **Carmen Giannattasio as the Priestess Norma**

On 24 April Marcianò took part in the memorial concert for the Armenian Genocide centenary, where he conducted the World Symphony 24/04 Orchestra involving musicians from 43 countries.

Gianluca Marcianò impressed critics at Grange Park last year with his performance in Lindsay Posner's production of Verdi's *La traviata*, where he **"conducted the BBC Concert Orchestra with great panache"** (MusicOMH). Marcianò explains **"I am very excited to have a chance to conduct a new production of non-Italian opera this year at Grange Park. Especially Samson et Dalila, it is a great challenge and pleasure for a conductor to play with all the colours which can be found in such a beautiful score. Here at the Grange Park Opera I will be very lucky with a really luxurious cast and I am really looking forward to working with them all."**

## Full Listings

Tchaikovsky *Onegin*

July 10, 12, 15 & 18

Preview video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0v3-VUE0B1Y>

Conductor: **Gianluca Marcianò**  
Director: **Stephen Medcalf**  
Designer: **Francis O'Connor**  
Lighting Designer: **Paul Keogan**  
Choreographer: **Lynne Hockney**

Onegin: Brett Polegato  
Tatyana: Susan Gritton  
Lensky: Jung Soo Yun  
Olga: Rebecca Afonwy-Jones  
Madam Larina: Anne-Marie Owens  
Filipyevna: Rebecca de Pont Davies  
Prince Gremin: Alan Ewing  
Monsieur Triquet: Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

**Sung in Russian with surtitles**

Saint-Saëns *Samson and Delilah*

June 20, 24 & 28 July 4, 9 & 16

Conductor: **Gianluca Marcianò**  
Director: **Patrick Mason**  
Designer: **Francis O'Connor**

Samson: Carl Tanner  
Dalila: Sara Fulgoni  
Abimelech: Nicholas Folwell  
An Old Hebrew: Christophoros Stamboglis  
High Priest of Dagon: Michel de Souza

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra



**Sung in French with surtitles**

***"Gianluca Marcianò conducted the BBC Concert Orchestra with a bright, clear, highly-energized zest that was Italian to the core."***

*Opera*

## Gianluca Marcianò



Young Italian conductor Gianluca Marcianò is Artistic Director at the Al Bustan Festival in Beirut. Previous posts have included the Tbilisi State Opera & Ballet Theatre in Georgia where he conducted *La Forza del Destino*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Nabucco*, *Attila*, *Il Trovatore*, *Mitridate*, *Re di Ponto* and *Aida*, as well as concerts with Andrea Bocelli in Georgia.

Much of Marcianò's operatic work in the UK has centred around Grange Park Opera where he has conducted

previous productions of *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *I Puritani* and *La traviata* as well as a gala concert with Simon Keenlyside and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. He has also conducted at Longborough Festival Opera (*Die Zauberflöte*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, *Così fan Tutte* and *La traviata*) and the Chelsea Opera Group (*Manon Lescaut*, *La traviata*, *La Favorite* and *Alzira*).

Marcianò also has strong ties with the opera houses in Zagreb, Minsk, Sassari and Prague. During his time in Zagreb as the main conductor, he conducted *Nabucco*, *La traviata*, *Turandot*, *Carmen*, *La Cenerentola* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. In Minsk, he has performed *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and *La traviata*, and at the Teatro Verdi in Sassari, *La Pietra del Paragone*, Poulenc's *Les mamelles de Tirésias* and the Italian premiere of Debussy's *La Damoiselle Elue*. In 2011 he conducted *La traviata* at the Prague State Opera.

On the concert platform, Marcianò has worked with instrumentalists such as Gautier Capuçon, Steven Isserlis, Khatia Buniatishvili, Sergei Krylov, Nina Kotova and Denis Kozhukin. His recent work includes concerts with the George Enescu Philharmonic and the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra, with whom he performed Mahler's Symphony No.1 in 2011. He has a close relationship with the English Chamber Orchestra, opening their 2011/12 London season in a programme including Mozart's Symphony No.39 and Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No.2 at the Cadogan Hall.

Future highlights this season include a concert in China in May with Elīna Garanča and Sumi Jo, Marcianò returns to Oviedo to conduct a new production of *Nabucco* by director Emilio Sagi, which tours to Pamplona.

[www.gianlucamarciano.com](http://www.gianlucamarciano.com)

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