

## New production of Jonathan Dove's *Flight* to open Royal Academy of Music's new theatre

Monday 12 March, 7pm  
Thursday 15 March, 7pm  
Saturday 17 March, 2pm and 7pm  
**Royal Academy of Music |  
Theatre**

**Gareth Hancock** conductor  
**Martin Duncan** director  
**Francis O'Connor** designer  
**Jake Wiltshire** lighting designer  
**Mandy Demetriou** movement  
director  
**Royal Academy Opera**  
**Jonathan Dove** music  
**April de Angelis** libretto

FULL CAST LISTING BELOW

*"Flight is that rarest thing, a popular  
new comic opera... Dove's music  
flies, the opera is fun, and people  
are going to love it."*

Tom Sutcliffe, The Evening Standard



**Jonathan Dove's ever-popular comic opera *Flight* opens the Royal Academy of Music's new theatre on Monday 12 March in a new production by Martin Duncan, conducted by Gareth Hancock.**

Since its premiere with **Glyndebourne Touring Opera** in 1998, *Flight* has found global acclaim. This modern-day operatic comedy set in an airport has been performed nearly 130 times by twenty-eight opera companies around the world. A further production, for Des Moines Metro Opera Iowa opens in June this year, making it one of the most frequently performed contemporary operas.

*Flight's* libretto, by leading British playwright **April de Angelis**, is based on the true-life story of an Iranian refugee who lived at Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris, and his interactions with other travellers waiting for their flights. Dove's iconic score for *Flight* explores pertinent themes of immigration set against a backdrop of everyday frustrations as well as the exasperations of modern-day travel.

Few contemporary composers have such universal appeal whether in the opera house or concert hall. Greatly loved by audiences across the globe, Dove has created a wide catalogue of operatic, orchestral, vocal, and chamber works. Since his breakthrough work *Flight*, he has written over twenty-five successful operas, including family and community operas such as *The Adventures of Pinocchio* (2007) and *The Monster in the Maze* (2015). He is currently resident

composer with Voces8 who are performing a piece by Dove at every concert this season and in upcoming recordings.

***"It can be summed up in one word: charm. Dove writes music that is tuneful, tonal and tangy. And it is sensationally orchestrated. In short, it's instantly beguiling".***

Richard Morrison, The Times

Designed by RIBA Award-winning Ian Ritchie Architects, the project has transformed the original Theatre which stood from 1976 to 2015, and has added an airy new rooftop space, significantly enhancing the existing performance, rehearsal and recording facilities at the Academy's Marylebone home. The Theatre and Recital Hall are both fully accessible and wheelchair friendly, with a new lift installed for ease of access. Both spaces have been acoustically engineered by Arup.

The new Theatre, built on the site of the original Sir Jack Lyons Theatre, has a reshaped auditorium and a new balcony, increasing capacity by 40%, and improving sightlines dramatically. As well as a new fly tower and side wings and the design delivers world-class stage and recording facilities in an adaptable theatre suitable for all forms of opera and musical theatre productions.

For more information about the Royal Academy of Music's new spaces, please contact George Chambers at [gchambers@ram.ac.uk](mailto:gchambers@ram.ac.uk)

Gareth Hancock, Director of Royal Academy Opera, commented:

***'I am particularly delighted that Flight will be our first production in our fantastic, newly built theatre. Having worked on the world premiere at Glyndebourne nearly 20 years ago, this is a piece which is very dear to me – and seems even more pertinent nowadays'.***

#### FULL CAST

	12, 14, 17 mat	13, 15, 17 eve
<b>Controller</b>	Ilona Revloskaya	Carrie-Ann Williams
<b>Tina</b>	Meinir Wyn Roberts	Alexandra Oomens
<b>Stewardess</b>	Olivia Warbuton	Flora Macdonald
<b>Minsk Woman</b>	Hannah Poulsom	Frances Gregory
<b>Older Woman</b>	Marvic Monreal	Leila Zanette
<b>Refugee</b>	Patrick Terry	Alexander Simpson
<b>Bill</b>	Hiroshi Amako	Alexander Aldren
<b>Steward</b>	Nicholas Mogg	Robert Garland
<b>Minsk Man</b>	Richard Walshe	Paul Grant
<b>Immigration Officer</b>	Michael Mofidian	Darwin Prakash

## Jonathan Dove

Jonathan Dove's music has filled opera houses with delighted audiences of all ages on five continents. Few, if any, contemporary composers have so successfully or consistently explored the potential of opera to communicate, to create wonder and to enrich people's lives.

Born in 1959 to architect parents, Dove's early musical experience came from playing the piano, organ and viola. Later he studied composition with Robin Holloway at Cambridge and, after graduation, worked as a freelance accompanist, répétiteur, animateur and arranger. His early professional experience gave him a deep understanding of singers and the complex mechanics of the opera house. Opera and the voice have been the central priorities in Dove's output throughout his subsequent career.

Starting with his breakthrough opera *Flight*, commissioned by Glyndebourne in 1998, Dove has gone on to write almost thirty operatic works. *Flight*, a rare example of a successful modern comic opera, has been produced and broadcast many times, in Europe, the USA and Australia.

Dove's innate understanding of the individual voice is exemplified in his large and varied choral and song output. His carol *The Three Kings* was commissioned for the famous Nine Lessons and Carols service at King's College, Cambridge. Dove's confident optimism has made him the natural choice as the composer for big occasions. In 2010 *A Song of Joys* for chorus and orchestra opened the festivities at the Last Night of the Proms, and in 2016 an expanded version of *Our Revels Now Are Ended* premiered at the same occasion.

Throughout his career Dove has made a serious commitment to community development through innovative musical projects. *Tobias and the Angel*, a 75-minute opera written in 1999, brings together children, community choirs, and professional singers and musicians in a vivid and moving retelling of the Book of Tobit. His 2012 opera *Life is a Dream*, written for Birmingham Opera Company, was performed by professionals and community choruses in a disused Birmingham warehouse, and a church opera involving community singers *The Walk from The Garden* was premiered at Salisbury Cathedral as part of the 2012 Salisbury International Arts Festival. 2015 brought the World Premiere of *The Monster in the Maze*, a new community opera commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra, Berliner Philharmoniker and Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, performed under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle in three separate productions.

In 2016 *The Monster in the Maze* was further translated into Taiwanese/Chinese for a production at the National Taichung Theater, and received a BASCA British Composer Award in the 'Amateur and Young Performers' category. Away from opera, Dove's solo piano piece *Catching Fire* was premiered by Melvyn Tan at Cheltenham Festival with further performances in the UK, Netherlands, Singapore, and Australia, and *In Damascus*, for tenor and string quartet, was first



performed by Mark Padmore and the Sacconi Quartet, setting translations of Syrian poet Ali Safar's work. *Seasons and Charms*, part of the Aldeburgh Music Friday Afternoon's project, premiered at the Royal Albert Hall with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain in 2016, and has had subsequent live-streamed performances with school children across the UK, and as far away as South Africa.

Jonathan Dove is exclusively published by Peters Edition Ltd, London

**For more information on any of the above, please contact:**

**Nicky Thomas Media**

**101 Bell Street, London NW1 6TL**

**+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)20 7258 0909**

[info@nickythomasmedia.com](mailto:info@nickythomasmedia.com)

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