

northern
opera
group

SAT 23 MARCH 2024, 1PM
MORLEY TOWN HALL

SUN 24 MARCH, 1PM
SALTAIRE VICTORIA HALL

PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN



A SHORT OPERA BY SIR CHARLES HUBERT PARRY
FOR AGES 5+

FOLLOWED BY
HUMPERDINCK - HANSEL AND GRETEL OVERTURE
RAVEL - SELECTIONS FROM SLEEPING BEAUTY
DVORAK - NOONDAY WITCH



northernoperagroup.co.uk/piper

Read the libretto / lyrics here!

The Story



We are welcomed to Hamelin town, where we are to hear a story of events that took place 500 years ago ...

The town was plagued by rats, who were terrorising the people and eating their food. A mob stormed the Town Hall and demanded that the Mayor and Town Councillors sort this problem out!

After discussing the matter for some time, the Mayor was lost for what to do - when a stranger appeared at the Council chamber, promising to get rid of the rats. He said that he had a special charm that would make the rats follow him wherever he led; and in return for getting rid of them, he wanted 1,000 guilders (old money).

The Mayor and Councillors happily agreed, and - just like magic - the Piper played his pipe, and the rats followed his tune! He led them to the River Weser, where they all drowned.

The townspeople were delighted, and the Mayor called to everyone to rebuild the town and make sure the rats would never return again. The Piper - well within his rights - asked kindly for his reward.

The Mayor, however, was not happy to pay such a large sum of money, and even told the Piper that their agreement was simply a joke. Instead, he gave him just 50 guilders ...

The Piper was enraged, and announced that he would take revenge on the town. Drawing his pipe to his lips, he started to play his music once again. This time, the children of the town started to dance uncontrollably towards him and followed where he sent them!

The Mayor and Councillors didn't know what to do. As the children reached the mountainside, it magically opened up, and the children entered the mountain - never to be seen again.



Michael Vincent Jones
Pied Piper

Michael Vincent Jones is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, his studies were kindly supported by the Richard Newitt Fund. In 2018 Michael played the role of Dieter in the world premiere of Adam Gorb's *The Path to Heaven* and performed the role of Lurcher for a recording of Cellier's *Dorothy* with Victorian Opera under the baton of Richard Bonyngé. He has worked with English National Opera, the National Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company, Iford Opera (as a young artist), Hull Urban Opera, Radius Opera and Northern Opera Group. Most recently he performed the role of Don Jose with Bolton Symphony Orchestra in a concert performance of *Carmen*.



Christopher Nairne
The Mayor

Scottish baritone Christopher Nairne is a Samling Artist and graduate of the Alexander Gibson Opera School at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. In 2022 he sang Marcello *La bohème* (Nevill Holt Opera), Count Carl-Magnus *A Little Night Music* (Leeds Playhouse/Opera North), Albert *Werther* (Lyric Opera Productions, Dublin) and as a soloist for the Scottish Opera Highlights tour. In 2023 he covered Morales *Carmen*, Horemhab *Akhmaten*, Marchese d'Obigny *La traviata* and Earl Mountararat *Iolanthe* for English National Opera. Roles for Opera North include: Morales *Carmen*, Novice's Friend *Billy Budd* (at the Aldeburgh Festival at Snape Maltings), Verva *Osud*, Prince Yamadori *Madama Butterfly*, William Dale in the UK premiere of *Silent Night*, Schaunard *La bohème* and Dimitri *The Greek Passion*. Other roles include: Count Almaviva *Le nozze di Figaro*, Guglielmo *Così fan tutte*, the title role *Owen Wingrave*, Schaunard and Silvio *Pagliacci*.



Kanchana Jaishankar
Storyteller

Kanchana Jaishankar is a contralto from New Delhi India, currently under the tutelage of Hilary Summers studying at the Royal Northern College of Music. In the 2022-23 season, Kanchana covered the role of Drebyednyetsov in Welsh National Opera's *Cherry Town*, and Suzuki in North Wales Opera studio's *Madama Butterfly*. 2023-24 season roles have included Olga in Preston Opera's *Eugene Onegin* and Mother Spring in RNCM's fall production of *Snow Maiden*. This year, Kanchana was also selected for the National Opera Studio's Diverse Voices Program which aims to develop, support and empower young singers from the global majority. Kanchana appeared in BBC Radio Manchester and Lancashire through 2023 and has recently been composing music for Poet Anjum Malik's new film with the Manchester Literature Society. In Christmas 2022 she performed 'Walking In The Air' with Violinist Esther Abrami for 'Christmas Carols on ITV' which was hosted by Jane McDonald.



Madeline Robinson
Storyteller

Madeline is a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Since training, she has performed roles with Opera South, Hurn Court Opera, Opera della Luna, Bampton Classical Opera, Cumbria Opera Group, and in March of 2023 was nominated for an Off West End Award for her performance of Rose Maybud in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore* at Wilton's Music Hall.



Rosie Kat
Director

Rosie Kat is an opera director originally from Newcastle Upon Tyne. She trained at RWCMD, graduating with Distinction in MA Opera Directing, and her work focusses on analysing behaviour and power dynamics,

expressed through bold and highly physical performance.

Rosie is passionate about education and engagement and was director of Leeds Youth Opera from 2021-22, and has led projects with the Citizens of the World Refugee Choir as well as teaching stagecraft at RWCMD and Leeds Conservatoire.

She has worked extensively as an assistant director at Opera North, Welsh National Opera, Opera Holland Park and more.

Upcoming engagements:

As Director *The Monster in the Maze* (Music in the Round), Lieder Scenes (Leeds Conservatoire).

As Assistant Director *My Fair Lady* (Opera North/Leeds Playhouse).



John Lyon
Conductor

John is a conductor and music educator based in Yorkshire and an alumnus of The University of Leeds. He is the principal conductor of Leeds Symphony Orchestra and regularly collaborates with other orchestras and opera

companies in Yorkshire and further afield. As an upper strings Music Leader, ensemble director, and resident arranger for Sheffield City Council's Music Hub, he strives to demonstrate the unprecedented value of music education, helping to improve its availability, quality, and inclusivity. Upcoming engagements - Leeds Symphony Orchestra 2024-2025 season, *The Monster in the Maze* (Music in the Round/Sheffield Music Hub/Sheffield Theatres), Tramlines festival (Sheffield Music Hub/The Leadmill Studio Orchestra)

Chorus

David Breen

Ian Craven

Catherine Edwards

Louise Garner

Lewis Hemingway

John Kavanagh

Bill McCarthy

Jane McCarthy

Sonja Miller

Sophie Moul

Maggie Pearce

Francesca Russo

Judith Smith

Francesca Vidal

Heather Watson

Rebecca Wright

Aurora

Hannah

Logan

Sophie

Producer ... Louise Garner

Prop maker ... Cory Shipp

Rehearsal pianists ... Martin Pickard and David Ward

West Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra

From its beginnings in 2003, the purpose of West Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra has been to perform classical music to a high standard and bring this to a wider community who would not normally consider attending a classical concert. It has subsequently grown to a full sized symphony orchestra performing a range of classical works.

The orchestra has a strong community ethos. We hope to inspire anyone to enjoy and participate in music making and to provide an opportunity for smaller groups to perform with or alongside us.

<https://wyso.org.uk/>

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Thu 4 April

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Fri 5 April

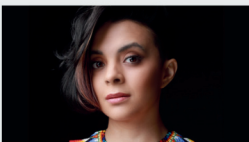
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