

LEEDS OPERA FESTIVAL 2021

23 – 30 AUGUST

northernoperagroup.co.uk

Welcome to the Leeds Opera Festival 2021!

We are delighted to be bringing live performance back to Leeds this Summer, with 20 events taking place in 9 venues across the city.

We had hoped to perform this Holst programme back in 2020, but with the huge logistical and financial challenges of the pandemic, this wasn't possible. Instead we postponed for 12 months which means that we can bring you the full Holst-fest this Summer!

Whilst Holst may have only written four works for stage, his output is hugely varied; making him an excellent subject for our Festival.

Alongside our headline double-bill of *Savitri* and *At the Boar's Head*, we're visiting 7 venues across Leeds with *The Wandering Scholar*, music making with young families and **Made with Music**, focusing on English composers with a **lunchtime concert**, and hosting a week long **exhibition** on the hidden 300 year history of opera in Leeds ... quite a lot to pack in to a bank holiday weekend!

A huge 'thank you' to our funders for supporting this year's Festival

Arts Council England
Leeds City Council
Leeds Inspired
Holst Society
Scops Arts Trust
Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society
Heritage Lottery Fund
Garfield Weston Foundation
Postlethwaite Music Foundation

Please let us know your thoughts on the Festival – do come and say 'hello' after an event, or contact us by email (info@northernoperagroup.co.uk) and on social media.

Enjoy the Festival.

David Ward
Artistic Director

Louise Garner
General Manager



Festival Schedule

23 – 30 August

Leeds Opera Story exhibition

Leeds Corn Exchange, LS1 7BR
FREE

27 – 30 August

The Wandering Scholar

Friday 27, 6.30pm – Morley Town Hall
Saturday 28, 12pm – Kirkgate Market
Saturday 28, 2pm – HEART Headingley
Saturday 28, 6.30pm – Morley Town Hall
Sunday 29, 12.30pm – Chapel FM
Sunday 29, 3pm – Sunny Bank Mills
Monday 30, 2pm – Seagulls Paint
Monday 30, 3.30pm – Seven Arts

Friday 27 August

7.05pm
Savitri (re-imagined)

Morley Town Hall, LS27 9DY
FREE

7.30pm
Savitri

Morley Town Hall
£25 / £12 (double bill)

8.30pm
At the Boar's Head

Morley Town Hall
£25 / £12 (double bill)

Saturday 28 August

7.05pm
Savitri (re-imagined)

Morley Town Hall
FREE

7.30pm
Savitri

Morley Town Hall
£25 / £12 (double bill)

8.30pm
At the Boar's Head

Morley Town Hall
£25 / £12 (double bill)

Sunday 29 August

11am
Made with Music

Chapel FM, LS14 6JB
FREE

1.15pm
Operacast LIVE

Chapel FM
FREE

Monday 30 August

12pm
Lunchtime concert

Salvation Army, LS2 7QY
FREE

Leeds Opera Story exhibition

23 – 30 August
Leeds Corn Exchange

300 years of opera in Leeds is brought to life with the Leeds Opera Story.

Discover the eight key moments in the history of opera in the city – from 1729's *The Beggar's Wedding*, to the launch of Opera North in 1978.

The exhibition is free to attend and open during Leeds Corn Exchange shopping hours.

On our website you can also access a walking guide to discover the forgotten theatres of Leeds.

leedsoperastory.co.uk

The Wandering Scholar

Composer ... Gustav Holst
Libretto ... Clifford Bax

Friday 27, 6.30pm – Morley Town Hall
Saturday 28, 12pm – Kirkgate Market
Saturday 28, 2pm – HEART Headingley
Saturday 28, 6.30pm – Morley Town Hall
Sunday 29, 12.30pm – Chapel FM
Sunday 29, 3pm – Sunny Bank Mills
Monday 30, 2pm – Seagulls Paint
Monday 30, 3.30pm – Seven Arts

Popping up in venues across Leeds, The Wandering Scholar is a fun, fast-paced and farcical 20 minute comedy.

Alison and her husband, Louis, lead a simple life on the farm.

But when Louis heads into town to sell his produce, he doesn't bargain on Father Philippe popping around with more than tea and cake on his mind ...

The appearance of a mysterious 'wandering scholar' only complicates the situation, and as Louis returns home early, all hell breaks loose ...

All performances free to attend.

Director ... Jim Osman
Conductor ... David Ward
Designer ... Rachel Rea
Violin ... Mia Scott

Louis ... Aidan Edwards
Alison ... Juliet Montgomery
Father Philippe ... Eugene Dillon-Hooper
Pierre ... Roger Paterson

Savitri (reimagined)

Composer ... Sarah Sayeed
Libretto ... Jaspreet Kaur

Friday 27, 7.05pm – Morley Town Hall
Saturday 28, 7.05pm – Morley Town Hall

Musicians ... Clive Hunte, Olivia Moore, Freny Nina

Written as part of Northern Opera Group's 'New Responses to Old Operas' commissioning programming, this new work reimagines Holst's *Savitri* for the 21st century – enabling South Asian artists to reclaim Savitri's voice and bring their perspective to the story.

All performances are free to attend.

Savitri

Composer and librettist ... Gustav Holst

Friday 27, 7.30pm – Morley Town Hall
Saturday 28, 7.30pm – Morley Town Hall

"One of the quiet masterpieces of British music" (Andrew Clements, The Guardian)

Based on the story of Savitri and Satyavan from the Sanscrit epic text the Mahābhārata, Holst's opera is a powerful musical depiction of the battle between love and death.

£25 / £12 for a ticket of the **Savitri & At the Boar's Head** double bill.

Director ... Emma Black
Conductor ... Lewis Gaston
Designer ... George Johnson-Leigh

Savitri ... Meeta Raval
Satyavan ... Kamil Bien
Death ... Julian Close

Chorus ... Melissa Gregory, Alysia Hanshaw, Phoebe Rayner, Leila Saleh, Eleanor Sourbutts, Lucy Vallis, Phoebe Watts, Emma Wheeler

Orchestra ... Skipton Camerata

At the Boar's Head

Composer ... Gustav Holst
Libretto ... William Shakespeare

Friday 27, 8.30pm – Morley Town Hall
Saturday 28, 8.30pm – Morley Town Hall

The challenge of fulfilling royal expectation and duty ...

The need to be in the company of others ...

The precariousness of political power and privilege ...

Based on Shakespeare's **Henry IV** plays, **At the Boar's Head** brings audiences one of Shakespeare's most fascinating relationships - Sir John Falstaff and Prince Hal.

£25 / £12 for a ticket of the **Savitri & At the Boar's Head** double bill.

Director ... Emma Black
Conductor ... Lewis Gaston
Designer ... George Johnson-Leigh

Falstaff ... Andrew Slater
Prince Hal ... Joseph Doody
Poins ... Thomas D Hopkinson
Bardolph ... Ed Robinson
Gadshill ... Samuel Oram
Peto ... Alex Haigh
Hostess ... Callie Gaston
Doll ... Rosemary Clifford
Pistol ... James Corrigan
Companion 1 ... Simon Pratt
Companion 2 ... Ed Caird

Orchestra ... Skipton Camerata

Made with Music

Sunday 29, 11am – Chapel FM

A free music making session for young children and families, delivered by the award-winning [Made with Music](#).

Operacast LIVE

Sunday 29, 1.15pm – Chapel FM

Join us for a live recording of our Operacast podcast, taking a deep-dive into the hidden history of opera in the UK.

With David Ward (Artistic Director, Northern Opera Group), Dr Jenny Daniel (Edge Hill University), Dr Andrew King

Free to attend.

Lunchtime concert

Monday 30, Noon – Salvation Army, Nile Street, Leeds, LS2 7QY

Our **Savitri** chorus present a free lunchtime concert, focusing on works by English composers. Accompanied by Helen Harrison.

Featuring
Melissa Gregory
Alysia Hanshaw
Leila Saleh
Eleanor Sourbutts
Lucy Vallis
Phoebe Watts

Free to attend.

Operatic Holst

Available online from 25 August

A discussion of Holst's opera career, and English opera in the early 20th century.

With writer Daniel Jaffé, Emma Black (director, **Savitri** and **At the Boar's Head**), and Jim Osman (director, **The Wandering Scholar**)

Double-bill



Emma Black
Director



Lewis Gaston
Conductor



George Johnson Leigh
Designer

At the Boar's Head



Andrew Slater
Falstaff



Joseph Doody
Prince Hal



Thomas D Hopkinson
Poins



Ed Robinson
Bardolph



Samuel Oram
Gadshill



Alex Haigh
Peto



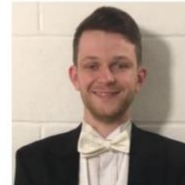
Callie Gaston
Hostess



Rosemary Clifford
Doll



James Corrigan
Pistol



Simon Pratt
Companion 1



Ed Caird
Companion 2

Savitri



Meeta Raval
Savitri



Kamil Bien
Satyavan



Julian Close
Death



Alysia Hanshaw
Soprano



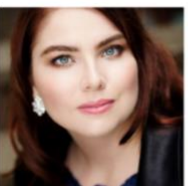
Leila Saleh
Soprano



Eleanor Sourbutts
Soprano



Lucy Vallis
Soprano



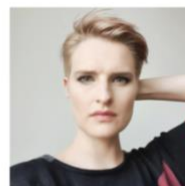
Melissa Gregory
Mezzo



Phoebe Rayner
Mezzo

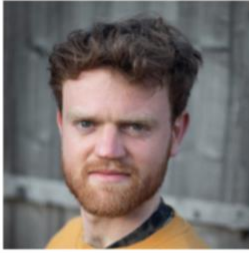


Phoebe Watts
Mezzo



Emma Wheeler
Mezzo

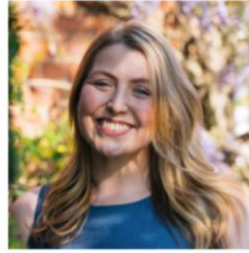
The Wandering Scholar



Eugene Dillon Hooper
Father Philippe



Roger Paterson
Pierre



Juliet Montgomery
Alison



Aidan Edwards
Louis



Jim Osman
Director



David Ward
Conductor / clarinetist



Rachel Rea
Designer



Mia Scott
Violinist