

Culture

Plymouth
Britain's Ocean City

Classical preview



Rarely-staged opera offers intoxicating experience

PLYMOUTH is fortunate in being on the touring circuit of not just one, but two leading UK opera companies.

Next week marks the return of Welsh National Opera, who, in addition to performing two very well-known operas, will be offering something off the beaten track.

While most opera buffs will be familiar with Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, they may not know of Swiss composer Frank Martin's own intimate setting, which presents a very different take on the legend.

His rarely-staged *Le Vin herbe* promises a truly intoxicating experience, with *Tristan and Isolde* appearing as enemies brought together when they mistakenly drink a love potion – though the ensuing affair inevitably still leads to a tragic conclusion.

Sung in English with English surtitles, it runs approximately 1hr 50 mins without an interval, and will have a single performance on Tuesday, April 18.

Puccini's *La bohème* needs no introduction, with two performances on Wednesday 19 and Friday 21 respectively, each running approximately 2 hrs 10 mins with one interval.

Madam Butterfly will be given on Thursday 20 and Saturday 22 respectively, each running approximately 2hrs 45 mins, again with one interval.

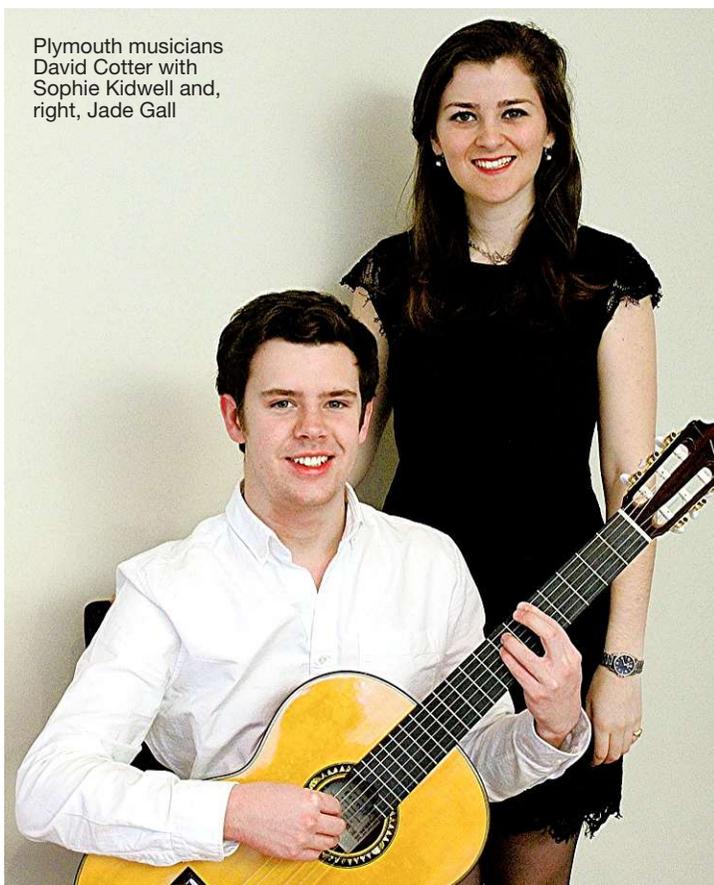
Both Puccini operas are sung in Italian, with English surtitles. Curtain-up is 7.15pm for all productions, which take place in *The Lyric*.

Glyndebourne returns at the very end of November, with *Così fan tutte*, *The Barber of Seville*, and *Hamlet*, by contemporary Australian composer Brett Dean.

Further details of the events on this page can be found online at Plymouth Classical Music Concert Diary, and at their respective websites.

PHILIP R BUTTALL

Plymouth musicians David Cotter with Sophie Kidwell and, right, Jade Gall



Top young musicians heading back to city

Philip R Buttall says it's especially rewarding to see local young musicians return to Plymouth



WHEN savings have to be

made, music and music education are often first in the line of fire.

So it's especially rewarding to see local

young musicians return to the city, having successfully completed their university or conservatory course.

Former St Boniface student, classical guitarist David Cotter recently graduated with First Class Honours from Durham University, where he was President of the New Art Music Ensemble.

Here he also met fellow-music-graduate Sophie Kidwell, who was President of the Durham Opera Ensemble, and a Choral Scholar for The Chapel of St Hild and St Bede.

While David is currently teaching music at Tavistock's Mount Kelly School, and Sophie continues her vocal studies in Berlin, the pair will be giving their first-ever concert together tomorrow evening at Ford Park Chapel at 7.30pm.

Titled *Voice and Guitar: A Musical Trip Around the World*, the collaboration represents the culmination of some two years' work



Pianist Mark Bebbington in Tavistock

and planning, with Sophie singing in five languages.

David said: "With music from Britten, de Falla, Dowland, Faure, Handel, Mozart and Schubert – to Gershwin, and Rodgers and Hammerstein with more besides, our programme has something for everyone."

Tickets include a buffet, and can be bought at the door.

MEANWHILE, ex-Plymstock School student, and saxophonist Jade Gall joins forces with pianist Gary Hawkins for a Gallery Bar Special at Calstock's The Old Chapel next Friday, April 21.

Appearing as SaxoForte, the event marks a change from Jade's usual jazz repertoire to a new classical mix, showcasing a varied and accessible programme largely by British composers, as well as some Telemann and Debussy thrown in.

Jade includes a performance of *Illumina*, specially composed for her by Marianna Filippi during Jade's time at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, as well as my own *Eclogue* – both for tenor sax and piano.

Doors open at 7pm, and the playing starts an hour later. Entry is free, with parting donations to the performers.

NEXT Tuesday marks the start of this year's Tavistock Festival, with an evening recital by the internationally-acclaimed Dante Quartet, where they will be joined by pianist Mark Bebbington for a performance of local composer Andrew Wilson's Piano Quintet at 7.30pm.

Mark gives an afternoon piano recital the next day at 2.30pm, with a capella choir Col Canto, from La Rochelle appearing later at 7.30pm – all events in the Parish Church.

You can also hear 16-strong Col Canto next Friday, when they sing at Wembury's St Werburgh's Church, at 7.30pm.

At arthouse cinemas



Plymouth Arts Centre

CHRISTINE (15)

True story of a 1970s TV reporter struggling with depression as she tries to advance her career, pictured.

NERUDA (15)

An inspector hunts down Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet, Pablo Neruda, who becomes a fugitive in the late 1940s for joining the Communist Party.

Tavistock Wharf

THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES (12A)

A former Hollywood star enlists the help of a friend in order to journey from London to France for her ex-lover's funeral.

Ivybridge Watermark

ARRIVAL (12A)

When mysterious spacecraft appear around the world, a linguistics professor is tasked with interpreting the language of the apparent alien visitors.

ROH (ENCORE): JEWELS

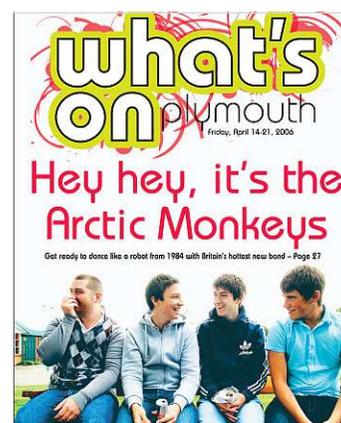
George Balanchine ballet.

NT LIVE: ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD – AS LIVE (12A)

New production starring Daniel Radcliffe and David Haig.

What was on

April 14, 2006



Arctic Monkeys head to Plymouth, Jason Donovan plays *Sweeney Todd* at the Theatre Royal, and the third Rockfest hits the Junction