

ENO Opera Works

Course Prospectus

2016 - 2017

Welcome

Opera Works provides talented young singers with invaluable input at a critical stage in their careers. It is evident that the vocal and dramatic work they do on the course helps to prepare them for the demands of the industry and the expectations of leading conductors and directors. The course is designed to give singers the opportunity to develop skills which are applicable to any role, providing a solid foundation on which to build a career in opera.

Since the Opera Works programme began in 2007, many young singers have gone on to sing principal roles or undertaken cover assignments with ENO and other British companies. Opera Works demonstrates ENO's commitment to nurture emerging talent as a key part of the company's operatic life, and gives singers an opportunity to access the many experienced and talented people who work at ENO.

Martin Fitzpatrick

Head of Music

English National Opera champions opera as music drama. We are committed to working with leading stage directors who strive to present highly theatrical productions where melody and dramatic action unify. We prioritise the importance of working with singers who express character through their bodies, minds and song. Opera Works is an essential creative space where emerging singers can expand their dramatic and vocal craft to prepare for the demands of our incredible industry.

Daniel Kramer

ENO Artistic Director







About ENO

English National Opera is founded on the belief that opera of the highest quality should be accessible to everyone.

At ENO opera is theatre; expressing drama through the unique combination of music, text, dance, and design. We sing in English and believe that singing in our own language connects the performers and the audience to the drama onstage, and enhances the experience for all.

We collaborate across contemporary art forms, to reflect the growing diversity of our culture. And we take a fresh approach right across the repertoire, from baroque to contemporary, as well as commissioning new works as part of our commitment to the future of the art form.

We bring our productions to the widest possible audience, whether at the London Coliseum, nationally or internationally. We also aim to introduce completely new audiences to the magic of opera through stimulating and creative learning and participation programmes.

The Course

ENO is committed to developing talent. ENO Opera Works is a continuing professional development programme for singers who have strong vocal technique and a clear commitment to developing a career in opera.

The programme enables singers to develop their vocal and dramatic skills in a professional environment within the context of a full-time producing opera company. It offers unique preparation for working in the industry and the opportunity to explore each individual's full career potential.

Course fee for ENO Opera Works 2016-17 is £2,000. We offer payment plans and a limited number of bursaries to those unable to afford the full course fees.

Who can apply

The course demands a high level of vocal ability and we do not recommend applications from beginner singers nor those without solid operatic vocal technique. All repertoire worked on during the course is in English, therefore applicants must have good spoken and sung English.



Musical Development

Singers receive monthly one-to-one coaching sessions throughout the course with key members of ENO music staff as well as additional coaching during the workshop performance rehearsal period. The coaching sessions begin in October and are arranged at times that are suitable for each singer. Friday afternoon music classes focus on repertoire for each module of the course and allow for group learning. Singers have the chance to work with eminent opera conductors at weekend workshops and during the final workshop performance module.

Dramatic Training

The course includes a series of intensive weekend workshops on text, movement and character. Input weekends involve guest tutors who focus on a non-vocal discipline, developing specific dramatic skills such as creating a character, using text and spoken word, and developing physicality. Response weekends provide the opportunity to put into practice the skills acquired during the input weekend, using operatic repertoire.

Guest tutors vary each year but are always lead practitioners in their fields. In recent years these have included Mike Alfreds (Director), Lyndsey Turner (Director), Liam Steel (Choreographer/Director), Christian Curnyn (conductor), Jacqueline Branson Thom (Performance Psychologist).



Industry Insight

The course gives singers the opportunity to enhance their understanding of the opera industry and casting process. The consultation session, mock audition, and casting Q&A with members of ENO's casting and music departments provide valuable input and feedback on individual potential, an opportunity to consider professional aspirations and repertoire, and discuss appropriate career routes.

Singers also receive complimentary tickets to dress rehearsals of all ENO productions during their time on the course. This is an important part of learning, providing an opportunity to experience and critique the company's high-quality theatrical productions performed by leading British and international artists.

Career Development

Regular professional development sessions throughout the course support other aspects of a performing career, including audition technique, workshop facilitation skills and performance psychology, with leading industry professionals. Singers are also invited to engage with the ENO Baylis programme through pop up performances, community and school projects to develop their experience of performing in a range of public contexts.

Performance

The final Opera Works module places an emphasis on applying the new skills acquired throughout the course to the rehearsal room. The workshop performance takes place before an invited audience of artistic staff at ENO, opera industry professionals, casting agents and members of the public.

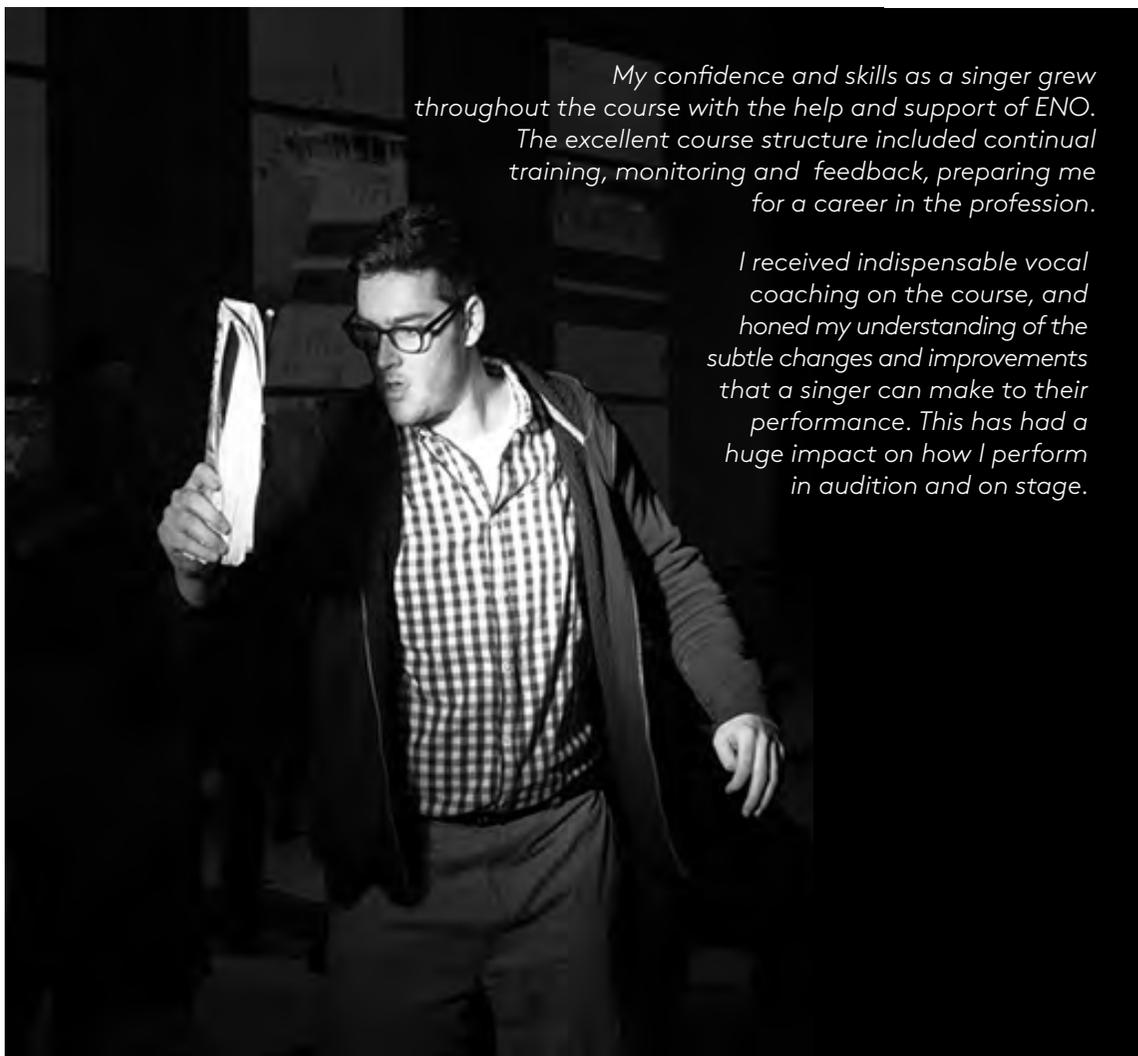


Opera Works has completely changed my perspective on 'the business'. Now I feel I am beginning to understand the professional opera world and myself as a performer.

Opera Works Alumni

ENO Opera Works has been nurturing young singers since 2007 and many Opera Works alumni have gone on to have successful careers as soloists with the major UK opera companies. Some have been invited to go on to further study at the National Opera Studio, perform cover roles or extra chorus at ENO or been invited to become an ENO Harewood Artist.

Opera Works alumni include: Elizabeth Llewellyn, Catherine Young, Clare Presland, Samantha Price, Katie Bird, Hanna-Liisa Kirchin, Victoria Gray, Lucy Knight, Natalie Montakhab, Matt Durkan and William Morgan.



My confidence and skills as a singer grew throughout the course with the help and support of ENO. The excellent course structure included continual training, monitoring and feedback, preparing me for a career in the profession.

I received indispensable vocal coaching on the course, and honed my understanding of the subtle changes and improvements that a singer can make to their performance. This has had a huge impact on how I perform in audition and on stage.

Apply

The deadline to apply for Opera Works 2016/17 is Monday 6 June 2016 at 5pm.

Application forms are available to download on our website: <http://www.eno.org/operaworks>

Please fill in and return to Elin Jones, baylis@eno.org

Please remember to include a publicity photo and a reference from a professional in the arts (eg. singing teacher/director)

A non-refundable fee of £45 (plus a £1.75 transaction fee) is payable as part of the application/audition process at

<http://www.eno.org/opera-works/apply>

Auditions

We aim to make auditioning for ENO Opera Works a simple, straightforward process and endeavour to audition the majority of applicants.

There are two rounds of auditions:

Individual Auditions

The application form asks singers to request a preferred audition slot on either 28, 30 June or 1 July.

Singers should prepare three operatic arias, at least one of which must be in English (translations acceptable)

The audition will be attended by a panel from the ENO music department. A pianist will be available.

Group Recall Auditions

Short-listed candidates will be invited to attend a group recall audition workshop led by Martin Constantine on either Saturday 16 or Sunday 17 July, 10-5pm.

Course Dates 2016/17

Please note these dates are provisional and may change.

	SESSION	DATES
Module one	Course Introduction Professional development session Input weekend Music call Response weekend	Monday 12 December 10am - 5pm Friday 6 January 2pm - 5pm Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 January 10am - 7pm Friday 20 January 1pm - 5pm Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 January 10am - 7pm
Module two	Professional development session Input weekend Music call Response weekend	Friday 3 February 11am - 5pm Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 February 10am - 7pm Friday 17 February 1pm - 5pm Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 February 10am - 7pm
Module three	Professional development session Input weekend Sing on Coliseum stage Music call Response weekend	Friday 3 March 11am - 5pm Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 March 10am - 7pm Tuesday 14 March 4pm Friday 17 March 1pm - 5pm Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 March 10am - 7pm
Module four	Introduction weekend Rehearsal period Workshop performance	Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 March 10am - 7pm Monday 3 - Thursday 13 April Thursday 13 April

Coaching *Specific dates and timings TBC. All sessions will be scheduled for weekdays, during the working day.

SESSION

Coaching 1
Coaching 2
Coaching 3
Coaching 4
Coaching 5
Coaching 6
Workshop Performance coaching

DATES

Week beginning 10 October
Week beginning 7 November
Week beginning 5 December
Week beginning 9 January
Week beginning 6 February
Week beginning 6 March
Week beginning 27 March

SINGERS

One-to-one sessions lasting 40 minutes.
Singers need to arrive 15 minutes in advance of their scheduled session.

Consultation & mock audition

SESSION

Consultation
Mock audition

DATES

Week beginning 2 January. Timings TBC
Week beginning 20 March. Timings TBC

SINGERS

Individual sessions, singers should anticipate attending for around 2 hours each

Dress rehearsals

PRODUCTION

Lulu

Rigoletto

The Pirates of Penzance

The Winter's Tale

Partenope

DATE & TIME

Monday 7 November 6pm - 10pm

Monday 30 January 3pm - 6pm

The Tuesday 7 February 6pm - 8.30pm

Friday 24 February 6pm - 9pm

Monday 13 March 6pm - 9.30pm

Singers are invited to attend dress rehearsals for each ENO production and singers are expected to attend as many dress rehearsals as possible.

Opera Works furnished me with some very valuable tools which I still use on a regular basis.



Contact

If you have any other questions please contact the Baylis team at:

baylis@eno.org

Tel: 020 7632 8484

<https://www.eno.org/about/professional-development/opera-works/>

ENO Baylis
Lilian Baylis House
165 Broadhurst Gardens
London
NW6 3AX

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