



## Music Director and Assistant to the Composer

**Into Opera** are looking for a dynamic, inspirational and creative Music Director for a children's opera and education project taking place in Norfolk from September 2017 – February 2018. This project will culminate in the professional world premiere of *A King's Ransom*, a new opera by renowned classical composer **Patrick Hawes**.

### Company Description

Into Opera is committed to getting more people *into* opera. By creating new associations around the art form and devising engaging, imaginative and relevant opera experiences, Into Opera hopes to develop new, diverse and long-lasting audiences for opera. This project has been developed in partnership with Children and the Arts of which HRH The Prince of Wales is Patron. This is the launching project for Into Opera.

**Patrick Hawes** is Into Opera's Composer-in-Residence. He is an English composer who has made his mark as a torchbearer of the English musical tradition. He is best known for writing the *Highgrove Suite* for HRH Prince Charles, for being Composer-in-Residence at Classic FM, and for the Number One album *Angel*. Among others, he has written for Voces8, the Choir of New College Oxford, Julian Lloyd Webber, and Hayley Westenra on albums that have all reached Number One in the classical charts. Patrick has recently written works for The King's Singers, alongside work on a clarinet concerto for Emma Johnson. He is currently working on his biggest project to date – a choral symphony entitled *The Great War Symphony* – to be premiered in its entirety in 2018 in London's Royal Albert Hall. His eighth album, *Revelation*, recorded with The Elora Singers (Canada) was released with Naxos Records in March 2017.

### Project Summary

*A King's Ransom* offers children a unique introduction to opera and all that it encompasses: classical music, drama, dance, the written word and design. Children, aged 7 – 11 (Key Stage 2), from four schools across Norfolk will have the chance to perform the opera which has been written especially for children to sing. *A King's Ransom* reimagines the story of Robin Hood, exploring what happens when Robin is unable to save the day. *A King's Ransom*, designed by **Michael Pavelka**, will be performed at the Norwich performance venue **OPEN**, on 1st and 2nd February 2018. The children will perform alongside the **Britten Sinfonia** under the baton of the composer himself.

Into Opera is providing a 15-week artistic residency in the four schools involved, enabling children to work closely with the composer, librettist, music director, stage director and other professional artists on a weekly basis. This project will bring together the pupils, their teachers and parents from all four schools. Throughout, high quality professionals from within the arts industry will support them. We have selected a range of schools to participate in this project so as to bring individuals from different economic and social backgrounds together, creating a diverse community with this opera at its core.

## The Role of Music Director and Assistant to the Composer

This is a key role within Into Opera's team. The Music Director will report directly to the Artistic Director and work closely with the Composer. This individual will fundamentally be responsible for teaching the opera's music to the children participating. We hope that the individual we appoint will be keen to collaborate with us on developing *A King's Ransom* as a national education project, beyond the premiere in Norfolk.

### Key Tasks and Responsibilities

- To devise and lead engaging, imaginative and accessible school music workshops, which enable all of the music from the opera to be taught to the children involved in the production.
- To prepare and motivate the children to perform the music of *A King's Ransom* sensitively and to a high standard.
- To create an enjoyable, collaborative and accessible workshop environment.
- To provide support to classroom teachers to enable them to confidently rehearse music with the children themselves outside of workshop sessions.
- To play the piano for workshops as required.
- To provide regular feedback to the Composer about the progress, and questions arising out of workshops.
- To participate in evaluation meetings to reflect on the success of workshops, engagement and participation.
- To provide support with the preparation of educational materials to aid with the learning of music from the opera.
- To participate in PR and marketing campaigns to help communicate the importance of children having access to a high quality cultural education.
- To provide musical assistance as required during production week and to lead warm-ups prior to dress rehearsals and performances.

### Person Specification

- Music Graduate
- An active Music Director, Conductor or Chorus Master with at least three years' experience
- Some teaching experience would be advantageous
- Experience working with young people is essential
- Keen to become an ambassador of Into Opera and an advocate of the need for all children, irrespective of background, to have access to a high quality cultural education.
- Confidence in incorporating piano playing into workshops so that there isn't a complete reliance on backing tracks.
- A good knowledge and passion for opera is essential
- Strong leadership and organisational skills
- Excellent time-management skills
- Experience of preparing workshop plans

- A positive, proactive, 'can do' attitude.
- The ability to maintain good working relationships with people at all levels and from all backgrounds
- A flexible approach to working and the ability to respond quickly and calmly to unexpected situations
- The ability to inspire and motivate others
- The ability to drive is desirable but not essential. Assistance with travel expenses to and from Norwich and accommodation will be provided.

## Further Notes

Fee: £4,500. It is envisaged that this post will be held alongside other part-time work, as this role is part-time and will require 2-3 days of work per week.

All school workshops will take place in Norwich or Great Yarmouth during the following periods of time:

25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017

30<sup>th</sup> October 2017 – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017

4<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018

Performances will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018.

Preliminary meetings to prepare and plan for the start of the project will take place in London and Norwich between July – September 2017.

An enhanced DBS check will be provided for the successful applicant.

**Interviews will take place in Norwich on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017.** Shortlisted applicants will be asked to run a 20-minute workshop with a small group of KS2 children that will be observed by Patrick Hawes and Genevieve Raghu. There will also be a 30-minute interview. The appointment will be confirmed by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017.

Applicants should email Genevieve Raghu – [genevieve.raghu@into-opera.org.uk](mailto:genevieve.raghu@into-opera.org.uk) - the Artistic Director of Into Opera, providing:

- A CV (including details of two referees)
- A covering letter (no more than two pages of A4)
- A recent headshot

Potential applicants are welcome to get in touch to request further information if required about the project.

**Application Deadline Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017**