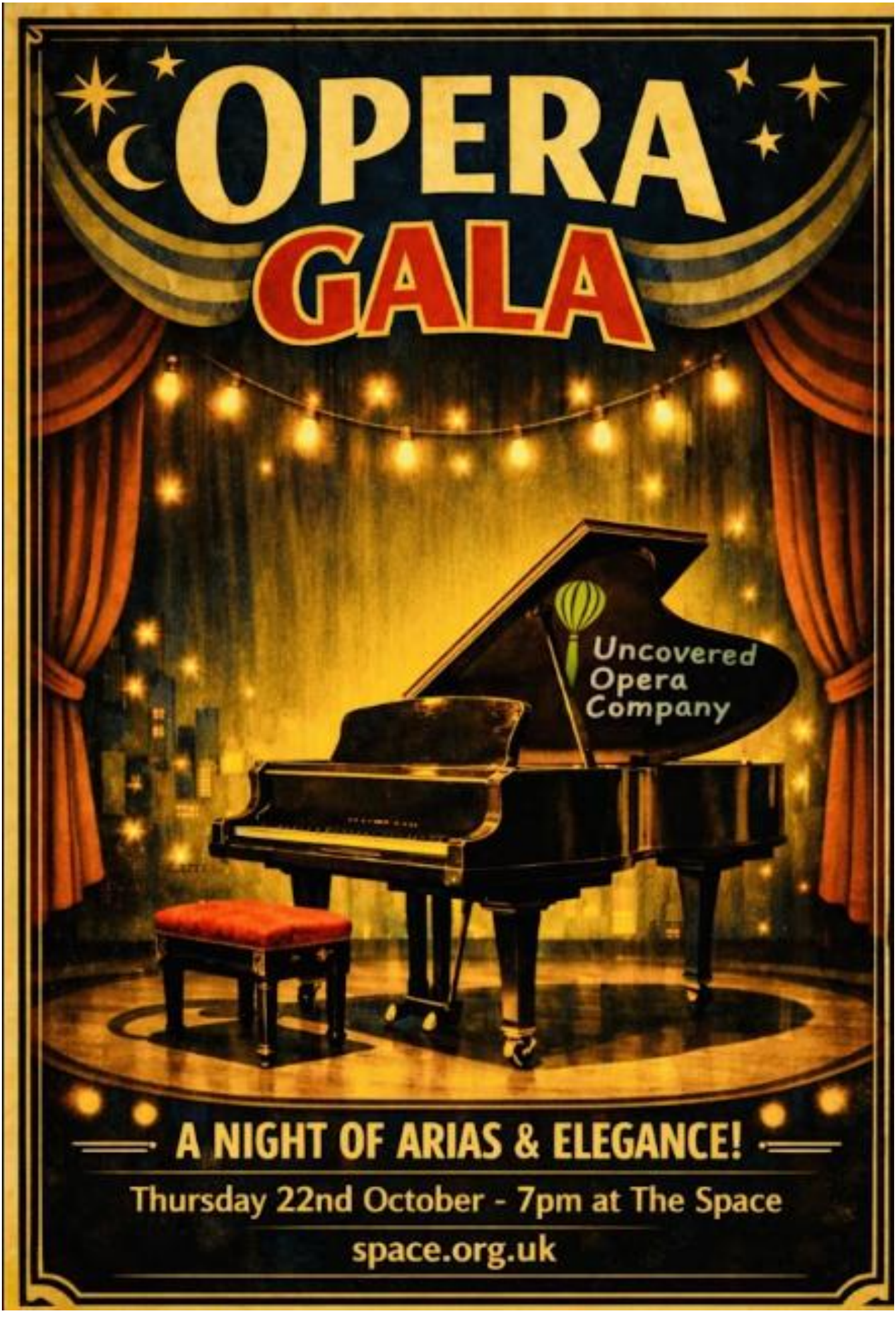

OPERA
GALA
Uncovered
Opera
Company
A NIGHT OF ARIAS & ELEGANCE!
Thursday 22nd October - 7pm at The Space
space.org.uk

Largo al factotum	**Il barbiere di Siviglia**	**Rossini**

Performed by Emil Vincenzi

Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix	**Samson et Dalila**	**Saint-Saëns**

Performed by Maggie Cooper

Belle nuit, ô nuit d'amour	**Les Contes d'Hoffmann**	**Offenbach**

Performed by Maggie Cooper & Valeria Perboni

Caro nome	**Rigoletto**	**Verdi**

Performed by Valeria Perboni

Pace, pace mio Dio	**La forza...**	**Verdi**

Performed by Marrianne Town Smith

Una furtiva lagrima	**L'elisir d'amore**	**Donizetti**

Performed by Davide Basso

Seguidilla	**Carmen**	**Bizet**

Performed by Maggie Cooper

Au fond du temple saint	**Les pêcheurs de perles**	**Bizet**

Performed by Emil Vincenzi & Davide Basso

INTERVAL

Casta Diva	**Norma**	**Bellini**

Performed by Marrianne Town Smith

Mira, o Norma	**Norma**	**Bellini**

Performed by Marrianne Town Smith & Maggie Cooper

Votre toast	**Carmen**	**Bizet**

Performed by Emil Vincenzi

Dio, che nell'alma infondere	**Don Carlo**	**Verdi**

Performed by Emil Vincenzi & Davide Basso

Un bel dì vedremo	**Madama Butterfly**	**Puccini**

Performed by Valeria Perboni

Nessun dorma	**Turandot**	**Puccini**

Performed by Davide Basso

Sous le dôme épais (Flower Duet)	**Lakmé**	**Delibes**

Performed by Marrianne Town Smith & Valeria Perboni

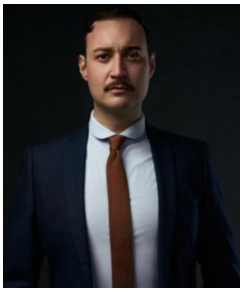
Bella figlia dell'amore	**Rigoletto**	**Verdi**

Performed by Emil Vincenzi, Maggie Cooper, Valeria Perboni & Davide Basso

Biographies

Chad Vindin is a vocal coach at the Royal Academy of Music and a staff pianist at the Royal College of Music, and he performs regularly across the UK and internationally. As a collaborative pianist he is the winner of the accompanist prize at the Royal Overseas League Competition, the Ludmilla Andrew Russian Song Accompanist Prize at the Royal Academy of Music, and the Maureen Lehane Vocal Awards Accompanist's Prize at the Wigmore Hall. Chad has worked extensively in opera for many years. He is a regular music staff with English Touring Opera and the Grange Festival as a repetiteur, coach, and orchestral pianist and harpsichordist. He has also worked with Garsington Opera, Bury Court Opera, Bergen National Opera, and the Royal Opera House, London, and he was a founding member of the Sydney Chamber Opera Company. Chad was assistant conductor for the Grange Festival's production of Yeoman of the Guard, and he also works regularly with smaller opera companies in the UK, such as Merry Opera, Re Opera, and Uncovered Opera, as both pianist and conductor. He is a regular staff pianist at the Oxenfoord International Summer School for Singers and Accompanists with Malcolm Martineau, and he is an alumni of the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme. During lockdown he recorded Zemlinsky's four-hand arrangement of Beethoven's opera Fidelio for the Solti studio concert series, alongside Joseph Havlat, available on YouTube.

Estelle Shircore Barker is an Australian pianist and music director establishing a reputation for artistic excellence as both a soloist and collaborative musician, performing extensively across Europe, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Recent engagements include the OperAffinity Festival in Todi, Italy, in association with the Aspen Music Festival and National Opera Studio, where she was a Young Artist Pianist. She has served as Young Artist Repetiteur for the Accademia dell'Opera Italiana and Musical Director for the Tait Memorial Foundation's *Jewel of the Strand*. Estelle was awarded Second Prize at the Sydney International Song Prize and selected as a 2026 SongEasel Young Artist. Following formative studies in Munich, Estelle became a prize-winning graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, before relocating to Madrid to study with Nikolai Demidenko, during which time she also completed a Master of Musical Research. Most recently, Estelle was awarded a Master of Arts with Distinction from the Royal Academy of Music, where she studied under the guidance of Tatiana Sarkissova.



Recently nominated for 'Best Performance in an Opera' at the 2025 Off West End Awards, and praised for his "spinto power", and his "tonal beauty and rock-solid technique" in Opera Magazine, Italian tenor **Davide Basso** is regularly seen in the UK and Europe performing in opera, oratorio, and recital. In staged opera productions, Davide has performed Edgardo (Lucia di Lammermoor, Donizetti) with Barefoot Opera, Rodolfo (La Bohème, Puccini) with Regents Opera and Cardiff Opera, Enrico (Maria de Rudenz, Donizetti) with Gothic Opera, Don Ottavio (Don Giovanni, Mozart) and Erste Jude (Salome, Strauss) with Regents Opera, Macduff (Macbeth, Verdi) with Uncovered Opera Company and Tealeaf Opera, Nemorino (L'Elisir d'Amore, Donizetti) with Tealeaf Opera, Aeneas (Dido and Aeneas, Purcell) with Opera Asteria. Upcoming roles include Don José in Carmen's Voice (from Bizet's Carmen), with Atelier Armonico. In concert, other roles include Don Carlo (title role, Verdi), Italian Singer (Capriccio, Strauss) and Narraboth (Salome, Strauss). As a tenor soloist, his repertoire includes Handel's Messiah, Verdi's Requiem, Puccini's Messa di Gloria, Mendelssohn's Elijah, Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle and Mozart's Requiem. He has also worked as a soloist with Wild Arts, the Dockland Sinfonia at Barbican Hall, Bath Philharmonia, Barts Academic

Festival Orchestra, Halifax Symphony Orchestra, and Italian Orchestras Orchestra Ritmico Sinfonica Italiana, Silver Symphony Orchestra and Casanova Venice Ensemble.

Maggie Cooper was awarded a scholarship to train at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. She started her career as a lyric soprano and her Madame Butterfly was described by 'The Times' as 'captivating..naive and delicate, yet tough, touching and never cloying...she delivers with searing power and passion'. As her range extended she transitioned to singing Mezzo. Maggie's Mezzo roles include Carmen (title role), Prince Orlofsky *Die Fledermaus*, Pauline *Queen of Spades* Mutter and Hexe *Hänsel und Gretel* and *Dido Dido and Aeneas*. In 2023 she performed with Merry Opera for their unique and highly acclaimed staged production of Handel's Messiah. Maggie is passionate about contemporary opera and thrives on the collaborative experience involved with working with composers and premiering a new opera. Most notably she performed the role of Princess Diana, for the premiere of 'A Silver Spoon' by Lisa Logan with Keynote Opera. Maggie frequently performs solo recitals in the UK and abroad. She has given recitals at the Holywell Music Room, St Paul's Cathedral, St Martin-in-the-Fields, St John's Smith Square, Kings Place, The National Portrait Gallery. In 2019 Maggie was nominated for Women's Radio Station's Future Classic Women Awards.

Valeria Perboni is an Italian opera practitioner working as both a soprano and director. She studied at the Conservatoire of Mantova, earning her BA in Opera Studies, and completed her MA in Musical Theatre at the Royal Academy of Music in 2018, receiving the DipRAM award for Outstanding Performance. As a soprano, Valeria has performed in the UK and internationally, at venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, Barbican Centre, Royal Opera House (*The Dante Project*), working with conductors such as Antonio Pappano, Sir Simon Rattle, Gustavo Dudamel among others. Roles performed include Maria in *West Side Story* for BBC Radio 3, the Queen in Holst's operetta *The Idea,* among others. She also performs in jazz and musical theatre, touring a one-woman show with the Jazz Acoustic Strings ensemble. As a director, since 2022 Valeria has directed productions including *Aida* (NODA award winner), *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *La Traviata*, *Macbeth,* among others.

Lyric-dramatic soprano **Marrianne Town Smith** started to sing in 2007 as a hobby and distraction from a fast-paced marketing management role. In 2015 she successfully auditioned for a Postgraduate Vocal Studies Programme at Trinity Laban and graduated with distinction in 2017. In 2025/26 she has sung the roles of Elisabetta de Valois from the opera "Don Carlo" and Gertrude and The Witch from "Hansel und Gretel"; with her company Uncovered Opera Company which she established in 2021 to bring herself and others performance opportunities. This year she has also covered the role of Amelia in "Simon Boccanegra" with Midsummer Opera and has sung more oratorio works as soprano soloist including Verdi Requiem and Mozart Requiem. Other roles performed and covered since graduation include "Ariadne auf Naxos" Title Role: Abigaille, "Nabucco": Lady Macbeth "Macbeth": Madeleine Lidoine, "Les Dialogues des Carmélites": Maddalena, Andrea Chenier: Donna Anna, Don Giovanni: First Witch "Dido and Aeneas". Lots of further exciting performances are forthcoming - please visit uncoveredoperacompany.com and sign up for more information.

Emil Vincenzi started his musical education within the family at the age of 5 and graduated in guitar at the Conservatory of Brescia (Italy) at the age of 18. He later started in voice training firstly in Verona and then in London with Raymond Connell. He was cast as Gianni Schicchi in Puccini's Gianni Schicchi with Berlin Opera Academy in 2020 (cancelled due to Covid) and graduated in voice from the Conservatory of Verona the same year. In 2021 he made his debut as Nabucco in Verdi's Nabucco in a workshop and appeared as Antonio in Le Nozze di Figaro with Hampstead Garden Opera in November 2021. In 2022 he debuted as Barone Scarpia, Tosca in the school's matinees programme at the Teatro di San Carlo, Naples. In the same year he started a collaboration with Uncovered Opera Company which allowed him to perform as Nabucco (Nabucco), Harlekin (Ariadne auf Naxos) and Macbeth (Macbeth). In 2023 he also debuted as Seid in Verdi's Il Corsaro at Teatro Verdi in Busseto. In 2024 he debuted as Michele in Il Tabarro with Instant Opera. In 2025 he debuted as Rodrigo in Don Carlo with Uncovered Opera. In 2026 he won the 3rd Prize and Prize of the Critics at the International Singing Competition of Lonato del Garda (Italy), and he was Germont in La Traviata with St Paul's Opera. His future debuts will be Simone (cover in Simon Boccanegra) and Ezio (Attila) with Uncovered Opera.

BEHIND THE SCENES – UNCOVERED OPERA COMPANY

Meet the 3-woman team behind Uncovered Opera Company! Marrianne Town Smith - Company Founder and Director, Rachel Carter- CRM Manager and Production Assistant and Sam Edmonds - Company Manager and Administrator. Working together in our spare time, we organise Uncovered Opera Company performances and thrive on bringing recitals and productions to you, our audience!

OUR MISSION

Cover singers devote vast amounts of time learning and preparing roles in opera but rarely have the chance to perform. Let's celebrate those unseen singers who cover roles and give them a platform to be seen: or at least to work on a role and add it to their CV. Let's uncover as many developing singers as possible. Let's bring opportunities to people not heard by larger companies. Let's acknowledge there are not enough opportunities for developing artists and let's do something about it. Let's come together in a fun, encouraging environment. Let's learn, build our skills, work out how to hold our shit together as opera singers and grow as artists. Unlike some other developing artist programmes or amateur opera companies there is no fee charged to take part. We are a group of likeminded singers, working as part of an equal team, people who actively enjoy learning from each other and want to learn on the job.

For news about forthcoming recitals and future productions please sign up to uncoveredoperacompany.com and register your email address. Or follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

Donations and Thanks

Our appreciation and thanks go to Steve Brosnan, Rob Byford, Sue Watson, David Roblou, Anna Miell, and all others who donate to Uncovered Opera Company.

Thank you to all our singers and to the pianists this evening and to The Space for hosting our performance, it has been wonderful working with you!

And finally, and big big thank you to our audience, thank you so much for coming to see our show!

Uncovered Opera Company

Marrianne, Sam & Rachel