





PRECIPICE

PRODUCTION TEAM

Sinéad O'Neill	Director & Writer
Joanna Parker	Designer
John Andrews	Music Director
John Leonard	Sound Design
Shobana Jeyasingh	Choreographer
Mthuzuzeli November	Choreographer
Natalia Orendain del Castillo	Assistant Designer
Lulu Tam	Assistant Designer

CAST

Sir John Tomlinson	Hans Sachs Meistersinger
Kiandra Howarth	Lakmé Flower Duet
Claire Barnett-Jones	Mallika Flower Duet
	Soloist Hymne Au Soleil
Tonderai Munyevu	Narrator
Héloïse Werner	Narrator & Music Creation
Oliver Gower	Child Performer

SHOBANA JEYASINGH DANCE

Catarina Carvalho	Emily Pottage
Rachel Maybank	Ruth Voon

M22

Isabela Coracy	Vanessa Pang
Emma Farnell-Watson	Ebony Thomas
Sayaka Ichikawa	

THE GRANGE FESTIVAL CHORUS

Tom Bennett	Pedro Ometto
Dominic Bevan	Rose Stachniewska
Caroline Daggett	Ryan Vaughan Davies
Emily Garland	James Wafer
Emily Gray	Rachel Wolseley
Ranald McCusker	Leila Zanette

CIRCUS PERFORMERS

Charlly Ludovic Hélin	Sophie Page Hall
	Antonia Mellows

MUSICIANS

Mark Derudder	Violin
Carol Paige	Violin
Tom Beer	Viola
Jesper Svedberg	Cello
Tom Isaac	Solo Cello
Tom Primrose	Piano

BACKSTAGE

Tom Nickson	Production Manager
Ben Nickson	Technical Manager
Becky Reynolds	Company Manager
Teresa Nagel	Chief Electrician
John Waterworth	Scenery Builder
Richard Morgan	Scenery Builder
James Boyd	Crew
Robyn Hardy	Props

STAGE MANAGEMENT

Checca Ponsonby	Stage Manager
Rachel Bell	Deputy Stage Manager
Rosie Morgan	Assistant Stage Manager

WARDROBE

Josie Thomas	Costume Supervisor
Rosie Emmerich	Head of Wardrobe
Helen Keelan	Head of Wigs
Eve Oakley	Assistant Costume Supervisor
Kirsti Reid	Costume Maker

SOUND

Ken Hampton	Lead Production Sound
Richard George	Production Sound
Stephen Owen	Production Sound
Ania Klimowicz	Sound Number 1
Javier Pando	Sound Number 2

PRECIPICE

In a world turned upside down, none of us knows for certain what's next. So many certainties are clouded with doubt. Much of our lives are spent on a screen - whether it's to work, to play, to talk or to learn. At least we can all agree that staring at a small screen is not where these fundamental human needs and pleasures are best provided.

So to be able to welcome you to The Grange, to be with others, to watch live performance in a beautiful place, to reclaim some of the most important qualities of life, gives us all at The Grange Festival great pleasure. We tread carefully but optimistically.

Just a few weeks ago, we invited the director Sinéad O'Neill to The Grange to walk around, have a think, and see if it might be possible to create a show which could be performed and enjoyed live, and which reflected the unique experiences we are all having.

Following her imaginative and sure lead we have quickly created a company of dancers, singers, players, actors, acrobats, and more to present the sequence you are about to see and hear. Sinéad calls it *Precipice*. That word needs no further explanation other than what the show reveals. We can all imagine for ourselves. We agreed that the performers should inhabit their own fixed worlds: the audience would be the ones who move. This is generally called a promenade - perhaps *passeggiata* is a better epithet: the slow communal evening stroll, greeting friends, witnessing everything, delighting in the world.

I hope, even with the necessary strictures, you can all enjoy doing these and more.

Next year we fervently hope for a return to a full theatre. In the meantime, welcome back and savour these moments at The Grange.

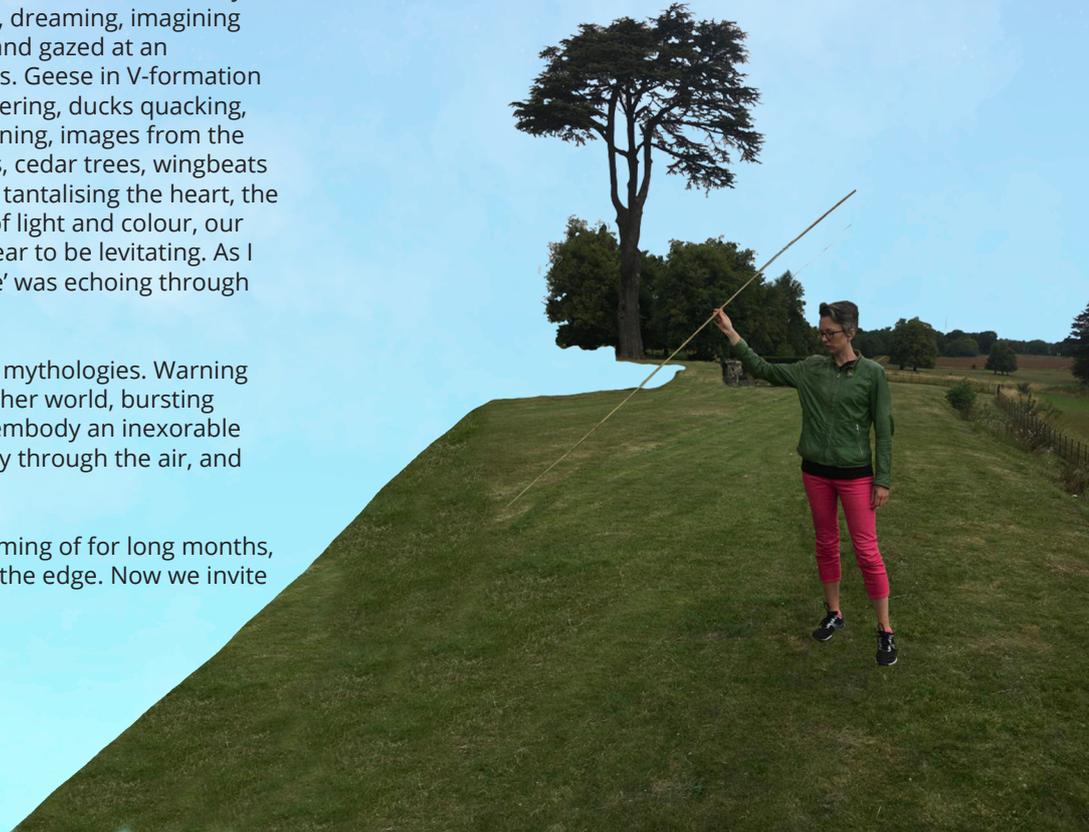
Michael Chance
Artistic Director & CEO

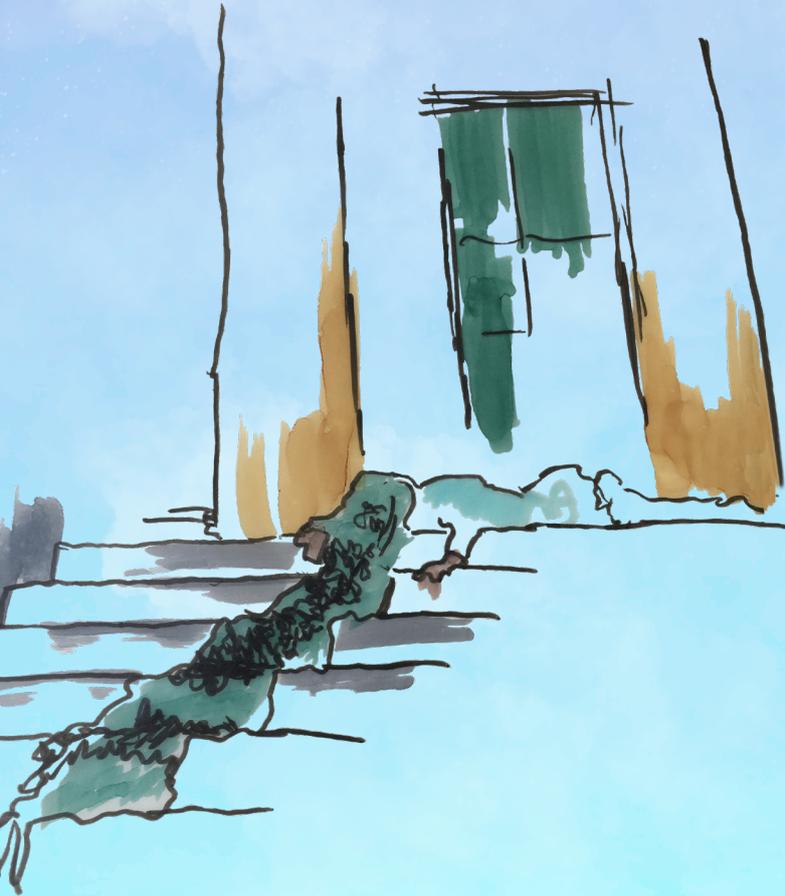
It was a breezy July day when Michael Chance, Michael Moody and I walked around The Grange talking, dreaming, imagining and hoping. We climbed on to the roof and gazed at an expanded horizon. We watched the birds. Geese in V-formation gliding in to land on the lake, rooks gathering, ducks quacking, hawks circling. As I drove home that evening, images from the day whirled through my mind - rooflines, cedar trees, wingbeats - and everywhere, widening the eye and tantalising the heart, the ever-moving sky. In some strange trick of light and colour, our figures in the photos from that day appear to be levitating. As I fell asleep that night, the word 'precipice' was echoing through my mind, and with it, images of birds.

Birds glide through our dreams and our mythologies. Warning of death, bringing messages from the other world, bursting into flames and being born again, they embody an inexorable redemption. They stalk the Earth, they fly through the air, and above all, they sing.

In the leap of faith we had all been dreaming of for long months, we took a deep breath, and stepped off the edge. Now we invite you to do the same.

Sinéad O'Neill
Writer & Director





Edges and transitions; the moments just before performance; the about-to-do, with all its different forms of loss. Wandering in The Grange, in this lockdown, is a form of haunting and hope. A space of past singers, their songs and the upbeat of the next phrase we are all looking for in life and in performance.

I have tried to occupy these edges with glimpses of everyday Melisandes, Onegins, and Tatanias and more - all inhabited partially, never fully, by singers who play on these edges as a matter of course, who have and are experiencing real loss in their everyday lives. The sky meets the land, the breath meets the song.

Joanna Parker
Designer

When I created *Contagion* in 2018 to commemorate the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918, I had no idea of what was waiting around the corner. Now, as then, a brand new virus is causing death and disruption. In the world of live performing arts where intimacy and relationship between bodies are the tools for creation, the disruption has been heart breaking.

When Michael Chance kindly invited me to be part of *Precipice* I knew it would be a challenge to repurpose a full length multimedia work. It has been a challenge so worth taking up, to make this first step into reminding ourselves of the magic that is created when performance is fiercely live and gloriously specific in both time and place.

Shobana Jeyasingh
Choreographer

For *Precipice*, I am inspired by the idea of taking flight. Sinéad and I spoke about a mythical bird and I immediately imagined this huge blue bird on the edge of a cliff about to take off. In South Africa people believed that birds were the bringers of fertility, the great migration is sign of growth, new life and more food. I find this so beautiful as I believe that the time we are going through now will only bring us more life and appreciation of life. This work inspires me to open my wings and life.

Mthuthuzeli November
Choreographer

PRECIPICE

This is a short message to each member of our audience, to welcome you to this performance of *Precipice*. It is an exciting prospect, and there will be many surprises for all of us - audience and performers alike - in the course of the adventure. Of course, our dominant feeling is one of relief and joy in being able to share in a Real Live Performance! In these hard times, before the first word is spoken and first note is sung, let's just say a warm 'thank you' to this Festival for having the vision to bring this *Precipice* to life.

Sir John Tomlinson
Hans Sachs

It was such an honour to have been awarded first place in The Grange Festival International Singing Competition last year amongst such talented colleagues. To perform with the AAM was a real privilege and I am very much looking forward to performing in *Precipice*.

I have missed performing in front of an audience and am excited to be part of this fantastic production. I love working with the wonderful team at The Grange Festival and am so grateful to them for their support.

Kiandra Howarth
Lakmé



I was so delighted to have been a prize winner of The Grange Festival International Singing Competition last year, which has led to many opportunities, including being involved in this exciting performance, *Precipice*.

Rehearsals have been very different, with costume fittings and director concept conversations over video call, but it's so wonderful that we are able to utilise technology to create a new piece of theatre.

This is the longest I have been without performing opportunities since early childhood, and I am so looking forward to connecting with an audience other than my cat and partner again, and to be immersed in live music. In these uncertain times I am truly grateful to be performing here at The Grange, and with such talented artists from all genres of performance.

Claire Barnett-Jones
Mallika

GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM

The Linbury Trust
Nigel Beale and Anthony Lowrey
Tom and Sarah Floyd
Patrick Mitford-Slade
Mr and Mrs Roger Phillimore
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ACCOMMODATION DONATED BY

Sarah Vey
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John and Wendy Trueman

OUR THANKS TO

Nicky Cambrook - Head of Volunteers
The Festival Volunteers
Nicky Gower - Chaperone
Richard Loader - Grounds Maintenance
Perins' School - Dance Floor

PRECIPICE

THROUGH THE TUNNEL

Voices | Tonderai Munyevu, Sinéad
O'Neill & Héloïse Werner

On the first day
Marks appeared in the grass

On the last day
Wings pushed out of the earth
And crows began to gather

In the beginning
was the bird

In the beginning
Before the word
Before the void
Before the desecration
and the fear
Before the redemption
And the hope
Was the bird
And the bird stalked the Earth

And in the end
After the calling
And the crying
After the bearing
And the dying
Out of the earth
Will come again the bird
Will come the wings
Will come the feet
And the beak
The eyes
And the voice

And the bird will stalk the Earth

IN THE BEGINNING

Performed by Tonderai Munyevu &
Héloïse Werner

Circus Performers | Sophie Page
Hall & Antonia Mellows

Music by Héloïse Werner



And in the now
And in the then
In the sorrow
And the grief
In the song
And the breath
In the arm reaching
And the eye gazing
In the soaring
And the wingbeats
In the heartbeats
Throbs the bird
And the bird says

'now I have a human voice
I will be your messenger
And your guide

I will be your river
And your voyage
Your vessel
Your voice
Your hope
and your grave

Carry me along
And I will carry you in turn
To the precipice
And beyond'

THE FLOWER DUET

LAKMÉ | LÉO DELIBES

Performed by
Kiandra Howarth & Claire Barnett-Jones
Accompanied by
String Quartet

CELLO SUITE NO 3 IN C MAJOR

J S BACH

i Prelude
ii Allemande
v Bourrées

Performed by
Tom Isaac

THE HIDDEN FACE

JOHN TAVENER

Performed by Michael Chance,
Nicholas Daniel, Fretwork
Circus performers | Ludovic Hélin & Charlly



PRECIPICE

That Spring, the birds were louder than ever before
Or perhaps it was we who were more quiet
As we stood on the...
As we contemplated the...

CONTAGION BALLET

SHOBANA JEYASINGH

This specially re-staged version is performed
by Catarina Carvalho, Rachel Maybank, Emily
Pottage & Ruth Voon

Music by Graeme Miller

FLIEDER MONOLOGUE

DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG

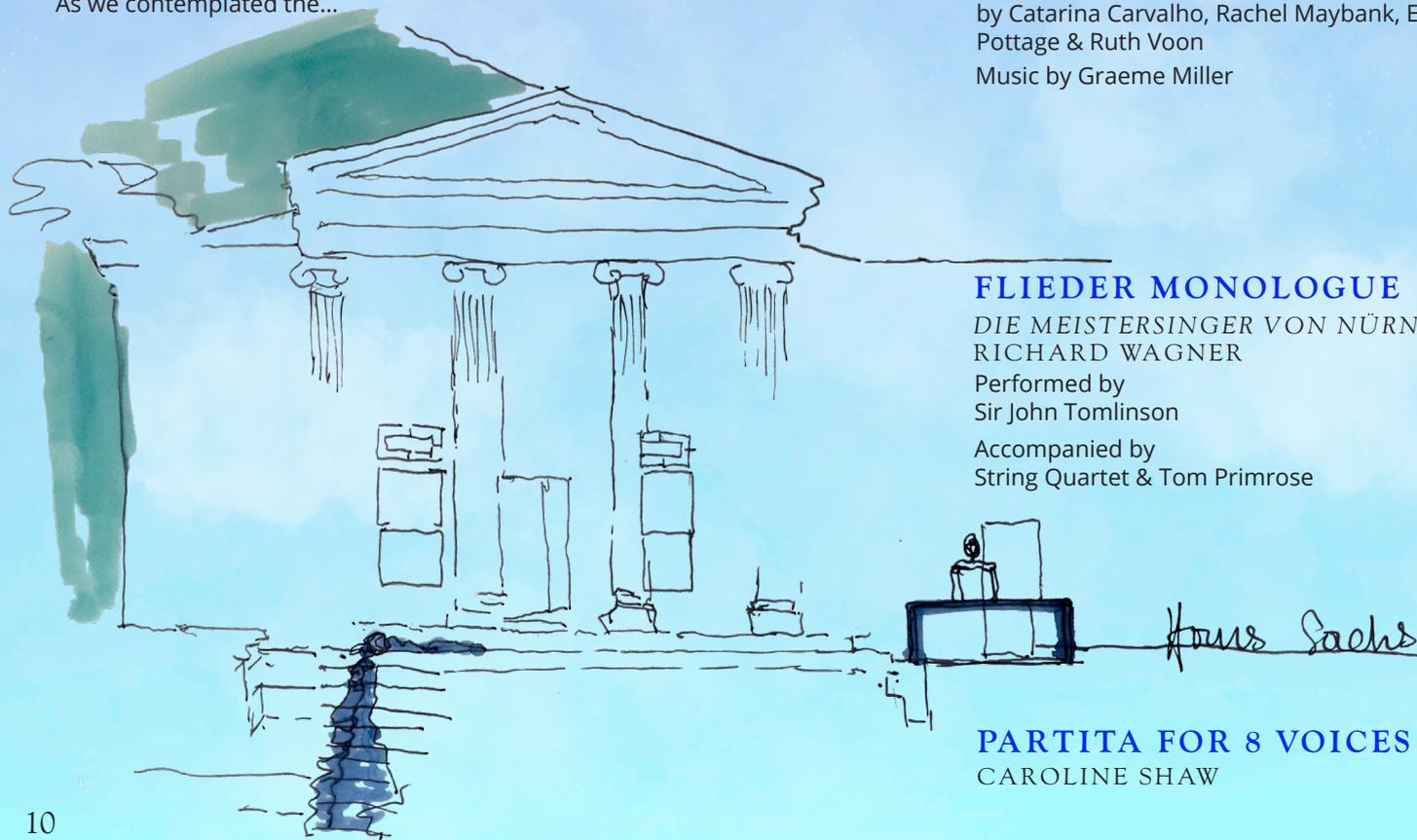
RICHARD WAGNER

Performed by
Sir John Tomlinson

Accompanied by
String Quartet & Tom Primrose

PARTITA FOR 8 VOICES

CAROLINE SHAW



FINALE

Choreographed by Mthuthuzeli November

Performed by

Dancers | Isabela Coracy, Emma Farnell-Watson,
Sayaka Ichikawa, Vanessa Pang & Ebony Thomas

Soloist | Claire Barnett-Jones

Narrators | Tonderai Munyevu & Héloïse Werner

Circus performer | Charlly

The Grange Festival Chorus

AUSSI BAS QUE LE SILENCE

FRANCIS POULENC

THE RITE OF PASSAGE

PETER JOHNSON

The bird that had been born out of the earth

Stood on the precipice

Stepped forward

And fell slowly downwards

Out of the sky

And into the future

HYMNE AU SOLEIL

LILI BOULANGER

RIANT DU CIEL ET DES PLANÈTES

FRANCIS POULENC



THE
GRANGE  FESTIVAL
HAMPSHIRE

JOIN US IN 2021 | JUNE 11 - JULY 18



LA CENERENTOLA

ROSSINI



A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM

BRITTEN



MANON LESCAUT

PUCCINI



MY FAIR LADY

LERNER & LOEWE



THE MONSTER IN
THE MAZE

DOVE

