

## The BBC Proms at Printworks: An operatic spectacle featuring dance, art, film, and fashion



The BBC Proms are delighted to announce details for the **Proms and the ENO at Printworks London: *Glass Handel***, which takes place on **Saturday 3 September** and marks the first time that the BBC Proms have staged a concert in a nightclub.

Created and co-produced by Grammy-award winning countertenor **Anthony Roth Costanzo**, **Cath Brittan**, **Visionaire** and the **English National Opera** in collaboration with Printworks London, *Glass Handel* combines music by Handel and Philip Glass to create a unique operatic experience featuring dance, live painting, fashion, film and soundscapes.

The creatives involved include:

- **Philip Glass** who will present the world premiere of a new work, ***No More, You Petty Spirits***;
- **Karen Kamensek** who will conduct;
- Nature beatboxer **Jason Singh**, who will provide soundscapes reflecting sounds local to Printworks;
- British Artist **Glenn Brown, CBE**, who will live paint during the performance;
- **Justin Peck**, the Tony award-winning choreographer and Resident Choreographer with the New York City Ballet;
- Fashion designer **Raf Simons**, who will design the costumes;
- Opera music videos by **James Ivory & Pix Talarico**, **Daniel Askill**, **Mark Romanek**, **Rupert Sanders**; the duo behind Toilet Paper Magazine **Maurizio Cattelan & Pierpaolo Ferrari**; **Tilda Swinton & Sandro Kopp**; painter **Mickalene Thomas**; multi-disciplinary collective **AES+F**; **James Kaliardos & Marisa Tomei**; and a new video by artist **Jacolby Satterwhite** which will accompany the live recording of the Glass premiere.

**Anthony Roth Costanzo says:** ‘Finding ways for classical music to tell new stories and to engage more people has become my mission. What if I asked some of the world’s greatest artists in the visual fields to show us the music of Handel and Philip Glass through their lens? Dance, painting, film, and fashion might reveal new facets of this sound world that I couldn’t imagine on my own, and which might entice new audience members in the process. There are an endless number of possible stories

contained in the capacious room of Printworks. Promenade between different artforms and become immersed in how dancers, filmmakers, a painter, a sound artist, and a fashion designer hear this music, and you may find their visual world colours how you hear it yourself.'

*Glass Handel* had its [premiere in the US](#) in 2018 in partnership with Opera Philadelphia, the Barnes Foundation, National Sawdust, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. This production has been re-imagined for a London audience and the vast space of Printworks, usually used for club nights. Costanzo's aim is to attract new audiences who might not have engaged with classical music before through collaborations with other art forms including dance, art, film and fashion.

**Annilese Miskimmon, Artistic Director of the ENO, says:** 'What an enormous a privilege for us, the ENO, to come together with this phenomenal group of old and new friends. The event promises to be a truly unique experience; by fusing music, dance, fashion and art, it will push the boundaries of how classical music can be experienced. We exist to bring opera to new audiences, so to be performing at Printworks, a venue that has become an alternative London landmark, is hugely exciting. Run, don't walk to get your tickets.'

**David Pickard, Director, BBC Proms, says:** 'At the very heart of the BBC Proms is the mission to bring classical music to new audiences. This includes travelling to new venues, both around London and across the UK, and working with a diverse range of artists. *Glass Handel* brings together visionary creatives from the worlds of classical music, visual art, film and fashion. I am incredibly excited to see the result of their collaboration staged in one of London's most spectacular industrial spaces.'

There will be two performances of *Glass Handel*, a matinee at 3pm and an evening performance at 8pm. Each performance runs for approximately 75 minutes with no intervals. Further details can be found on the BBC Proms website [here](#).

For further press information, press tickets, or publicity queries, please contact: Proms Publicity ([PromsPublicity@bbc.co.uk](mailto:PromsPublicity@bbc.co.uk))

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **About the BBC Proms**

As the world's biggest classical music festival, the BBC Proms offers eight weeks of world-class music-making from a vast array of leading orchestras, conductors and soloists from the UK and around the world. Across more than 80 concerts, the festival aims to offer a summer of music that allows for the most diverse and exciting musical journeys. More than 125 years since it was founded, the driving factor in building a festival of this scale is to offer exceptional music-making at the lowest possible prices, continuing founder-conductor Henry Wood's original ambition of bringing the best classical music to the widest possible audience. With every Prom broadcast live on BBC Radio 3, available across multiplatform and many televised on the BBC, the Proms reaches far beyond the Royal Albert Hall. The 2022 BBC Proms runs from Friday 15 July to Saturday 10 September.

### **About Anthony Roth Costanzo**

Countertenor Anthony Roth Costanzo began performing professionally at the age of 11 and has since appeared in opera, concert, recital, film, and on Broadway. He is a 2022 GRAMMY winner, a recipient of the 2020 Beverly Sills Award from the Metropolitan Opera, a winner of the 2020 Opera News Award, and Musical America's 2019 Vocalist of the Year.

Costanzo has appeared with many of the world's leading opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, English National Opera, Houston Grand Opera,

Opera Philadelphia, Los Angeles Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Glyndebourne Opera Festival, Dallas Opera, Teatro Real Madrid, Spoleto Festival USA, Glimmerglass Festival, and Finnish National Opera. In concert he has sung with the New York Philharmonic, The Cleveland Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Berlin Philharmonic, NDR at the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, and the London Symphony Orchestra, among others.

Costanzo has begun working as a producer and curator in addition to his singing, creating shows for Opera Philadelphia, National Sawdust, Philharmonia Baroque, The Barnes Foundation, St. John The Divine, Princeton University, WQXR, The State Theater in Salzburg, Master Voices and Kabuki-Za Tokyo. In film, he played Francis in the Merchant Ivory film, *A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries*, for which he was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award.

### **About the ENO**

The English National Opera is the national opera company dedicated to one simple aim: making opera for everyone. We sing in English to be accessible to the widest possible audience, as well as offering free tickets for under 21s, and for as little as 10 pounds for everyone else. We create opera that feels different, theatrical and creatively daring and have been doing this to an internationally recognised standard since being founded in 1931 as Sadler's Wells Opera. We are passionate about making opera more inclusive and representative of the society in which we live, and believe that positive change for the industry also comes from removing barriers to access. The ENO is for everyone, and always will be.

### **About Karen Kamensek**

Grammy Award-winning conductor Karen Kamensek's expansive artistry coupled with her deep commitment for championing composers of the 20th and 21st century is reflected in her work in both the opera house and on the concert stage. Recently she made a triumphant return to the Metropolitan Opera to lead the Olivier Award-winning production of Glass' *Akhmaten*—for which she won a 2022 Grammy—and was asked to step in at the last minute to conduct the company's production of Verdi's *Rigoletto* to much critical acclaim. Ms. Kamensek's 2022/23 season is one of no less than 10 debuts and several high-profile and welcome returns with a wide range of repertoire, including numerous world premieres by some of today's leading musical voices. Chief among these: a new work by Philip Glass (English National Opera Orchestra/BBC Proms), Geoffrey Gordon's *Eolian*, *A Concerto for Harp and Orchestra* (Brussels Philharmonic), Vivian Fung's Flute Concerto (Vancouver Symphony Orchestra), and David Bruce's *The Peacock Pavane* (London Philharmonic Orchestra). Frequently in demand as a guest conductor with many of today's most prominent opera companies and orchestras, she will lead the Norwegian Opera & Ballet (Bernstein's *Wonderful Town*) and the Minnesota Opera (Mozart's *Don Giovanni*) for the first time this season and returns to English National Opera for a revival of Glass' *Akhmaten*.

### **About Glenn Brown**

Glenn Brown, CBE, is a British artist known for the use of art historical references in his paintings. His grotesque yet fascinating figures appear to be painted with thick impasto, but are actually executed through the application of thin, swirling brushstrokes which create the illusion of almost photographically flat surfaces. The effect is powerful—often unsettling—creating an artistic language that transcends time and pictorial conventions. Brown sees these appropriations and oppositions as key to his approach. In the last few years, Brown has extensively embraced drawing. Still conceptually rooted to art historical references, he stretches, combines, distorts and layers images to create subtle yet complex line-based works. Brown's work has been the subject of countless solo and group exhibitions including the Louvre Museum, Paris (2022), Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2021), Nationalmuseum, Stockholm (2020), British Museum, London (2019), Scottish National Gallery (2018), Rembrandt House, Amsterdam (2017), Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati (2016),

Centre George Pompidou Malaga (2015), The Saatchi Gallery (2014, 1995), Museo Guggenheim, Bilbao, Spain (2013), Kunsthalle, Vienna (2011), Gwangju Bienalle, Korea (2010), Tate Liverpool, England (2009), Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna (2008), and many more. In 2023, Brown's exhibition at Sprengel Museum and Landesmuseum in Hannover, Germany is set to open. Glenn Brown was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in Queen Elizabeth II's 2019 birthday honors list for his service to the arts.

### **About Justin Peck**

Justin Peck is a Tony Award winning choreographer, director, filmmaker, and dancer based in New York City. He is currently the acting Resident Choreographer of New York City Ballet (only the second person in the institution's history to hold this title). After attending the School of American Ballet at Lincoln Center from 2003-2006, Peck was invited to join the New York City Ballet as a dancer in 2006. Peck began choreographing in 2009 at the New York Choreographic Institute. In 2013, Peck was promoted to the rank of Soloist, performing full-time through 2019 with the company. In 2014, after the creation of his acclaimed ballet *Everywhere We Go*, he was appointed as Resident Choreographer of New York City Ballet. Peck has created over 50 dance-works -- more than 20 for New York City Ballet. In film, Peck choreographed *Red Sparrow* (2016) starring Jennifer Lawrence and directed by Francis Lawrence; *West Side Story* (2021) in collaboration with director Steven Spielberg; and *Maestro* (2022) in collaboration with director/actor/ writer Bradley Cooper. Peck choreographed the 2018 Broadway revival of *Carousel* for which he won a Tony Award. Other awards include the Golden Plate Honor from the Academy of Achievement (2019), the National Arts Award (2018), the Bessie Award for his ballet *Rodeo: Four Dance Episodes* (2015), the Gross Family Prize for his ballet *Everywhere We Go* (2014).

### **About Raf Simons**

Raf Simons graduated in Industrial Design and worked as a furniture designer before changing his profession to become a self-trained menswear designer. In 1995, he launched his much lauded Raf Simons label. In 2000, Simons was appointed Head Professor of the Fashion Department at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna for 5 years. From 2005 to 2012, Simons was Creative Director of Jil Sander. In 2012 Simons was named Artistic Director of Christian Dior for women's Haute Couture, Ready-to-Wear, and accessories. From 2016 to 2018, Simons was Chief Creative Officer at Calvin Klein. Currently, Simons is Co-Creative Director at Prada, working with Miuccia Prada on creative input and decision-making. Music, art, performance, images and words have a substantial role in the kind of world Simons wants to project. At the core of his universe are attitudes, moods and statements about individuality and independence. Equally important is Simons' constant quest for innovation. His designs look for the now and tomorrow, even if they are inspired by historical or classical references. With his signature style evolving and maturing, the key elements stay the same: modern proportions, a constant research for fabrics and textures and the interplay of pure construction and new shapes with the body and psyche of the contemporary man. Simons has received numerous awards including CFDA Designer of the Year (womenswear and menswear) for Calvin Klein (2017) and again for womenswear in 2018; Prize for General Cultural Merit from the Flemish Government (2017); BFC Designer of the Year (2017); Simons was named one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people.

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