



## Handel Opera Project 2020 - Jephtha

**Director – Jennifer Hamilton**

**Conductor – Christopher McMullen-Laird**

**Vocal Coach – Sue Valentine**

**You are invited to participate in another exciting opera project!**

Within Handel's last epic oratorio, **Jephtha**, there is the core of a very human drama, The great warrior, Jephtha has vowed to God that if he is successful in battle, he will sacrifice the first living creature he sees. He is victorious, but the first living soul he encounters is his own daughter. The struggle between faith and family love impacts on all the people in this story – which is set in a war-torn land, where desperate promises have been made.

The choristers will be joined by young singers drawn from conservatoires who take the principal roles in the opera, assist the chorus and are resident for a fortnight's training course. The Baroque ensemble, Noxwode led by Conor Gricmanis under the direction of an award winning young conductor will accompany the singers.

**1. The Course** will run as follows:

Sunday 31 May	Music rehearsal	10.30 – 15.15
Wednesday 3 June	Music rehearsal	19.00 – 21.00
Wednesday 10 June	Music rehearsal	19.00 – 21.00
Friday 12 June	Music rehearsal	19.00 – 21.00
Wednesday 17 June	Music rehearsal	19.00 – 21.00
Wednesday 24 June	Music rehearsal	19.00 – 21.00
Sunday 27 June	Music rehearsal	14.00 – 16.00
Wednesday 1 July	Music rehearsal	19.00 – 21.00
Saturday 4 July	Music rehearsal	14.00 – 16.00
Wednesday 8 July	Music rehearsal	19.00 – 21.00
Wednesday 15 July	Music rehearsal with cast	18.00 – 19.00
Saturday 18 July	Music rehearsal with cast	10.00 – 13.00
Tuesday 21 July	Stage rehearsal	18.00 – 21.00
Wednesday 22 July	Stage rehearsal	19.00 – 22.00
Thursday 23 July	Dress rehearsal	13.30 – 16.30
Thursday 23 July	Performance	19.30
Friday 24 July	Performance	19.30
Saturday 25 July	Performance	19.30

**PLEASE NOTE THESE TIMINGS ARE STILL PROVISIONAL!**

2. **Rehearsals** will take place in the Yorke Trust Old Chapel, South Creake, NR21 9JF which is situated in the orchard at the back of the Yorke Trust building (The Old Norwich Arms). It may not be possible for everyone to attend all rehearsals. This is fine as long as you can make at least 50%.
3. **Choruses** The Community Choristers will be singing five choruses – 18, 26, 34, 50 (from the beginning to letter D) and 71. In Christopher's words 'These are dramatic and varied and some of them rather meaty!' Chris would love them to be sung from memory.
4. **Acting** There may be an opportunity to act, but this will be decided as rehearsals proceed.
5. **Performances, run through and dress rehearsal** will take place in St Mary's Church, South Creake, NR219LX. The production is semi-staged and choristers are not required to act.
6. **Dress code** will be black.
7. **Vocal Scores** (Novello) will be available to all participants at the first rehearsal or in advance by prior arrangement. It is anticipated that choristers will be a mix of music readers and non-music readers. Please note that Christopher and Jennifer have adjusted the score to make it a manageable length.
8. **Car Parking** is available at The Yorke Trust and in Church Lane, South Creake.
9. **Refreshments** Tea and coffee will be available in the Old Norwich Arms 15 minutes before ordinary rehearsals and as required at other times.
10. **Booking** Please complete the **Chorister Registration Form** and return to [carol.jennings2@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.jennings2@btinternet.com) or by post to **The Yorke Trust, Grove Cottage, Southgate Road, South Creake, NR21 9PA.**
11. **Fee** A fee of £60 can be paid online The Yorke Trust a/c no: 44630417 sort code: 52 41 29 (your name and Jephtha as a reference or by cheque payable to **The Yorke Trust**, and sent to **Grove Cottage, Southgate Road, South Creake, NR21 9PA.**
12. **For further information** please contact Carol Jennings on 01328 738482 or 07899 77 1366 or [carol.jennings2@btinternet.com](mailto:carol.jennings2@btinternet.com)