

Cognoscenti

An evening of historic performances with Chelsea Opera Group
presented by Brian Godfrey:
Monday February 13th 2012 at 6 for 6.30 pm.
at 160 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4DD (offices of Cameron McKenna)

As we learnt at the Annual Launch Party, Chelsea Opera Group was founded in 1950, and over the years has been host to many distinguished singers, under equally distinguished conductors.

This evening gives us a chance to experience the range of COG's contribution to the development of opera in the last sixty years, concentrating particularly on earlier performances of arias and ensemble pieces, with such artists as April Cantelo, Alberto Remedios and Josephine Veasey, Pauline Tinsley, John Tomlinson, Willard White, Robert Lloyd, John Eliot Gardiner (singing) and Kiri te Kanawa; and conductors Colin Davis, Roger Norrington, Nicholas Braithwaite, John Matheson, Howard Williams and Simon Rattle.

Many of the operas are now mainstream, but one great contribution of COG was to seek out masterpieces and introduce them to the public again, with the result that they were produced later in the national opera houses. COG continues to include this among its objectives, as well as giving young artists a chance to come forward; and the distinction of our past performers is a tribute to the perspicacity of our chairmen and committees over the years.

This promises to be an entertaining as well as an historic evening, with some fifteen excerpts lasting just over an hour. We assemble at 6pm for the performance to begin around 6.30pm; this will be followed by drinks and canapés, and the evening will finish at about 8.30pm. We are very grateful to our long-term recording specialist Brian Godfrey who has drawn on his extensive collection of recordings of live COG performances to provide a wide and high-quality range of excerpts.

Please indicate if you plan to attend and send a cheque to Vanessa Dennison at 39A Butler Avenue, Harrow HA1 4EJ, e-mail cognoscenti@chelseaoperagroup.org.uk; 07789 935357 : **£10** for members, and **£15** for guests. Booking in advance will enable us to cater for the right numbers, as well as reducing security queues at the doors of Cameron McKenna on the night, but extra tickets will be available there if you want to bring more guests.

Adam Lee, chairman, Cognoscenti

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Name:

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I will be bringing guests

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I enclose a cheque for £ (£10 for members: £15 for guests) payable to Chelsea Opera Group