

Guildford Opera Company (GOC)

Saint Saëns Henry VIII - May 16 & 17 2019 - notes for auditionees

GOC is an amateur opera company based in Guildford, Surrey, which is run and financed by its chorus and employs a professional Musical Director. It holds open auditions for the principal parts which are often filled by professional singers looking for further roles/experience. Rehearsals and performances are based in Guildford. A contribution will be made towards the travel expenses for the principal roles. The current rates and how they are applied are outlined below.

Auditions

The auditions will be held at The Electric theatre, Guildford, Surrey GU1 4SZ on Friday November 23. They will be timed and be available from 13.30 for the following principal parts.

Henry VIII - baritone
Catherine of Aragon - soprano
Anne Boleyn - mezzo-soprano
Don Gómez de Feria - tenor
Earl of Surrey - tenor
Duke of Norfolk – bass

– all other parts will be filled by members of the company:-

As the opera is not well known, a pdf of the draft vocal score (to be refined before rehearsals start) may be obtained from chairman@guildfordopera.com to enable you to assess the roles. The vocal score is copyright and these pdf copies should not be distributed further.

Audition pieces are available from the GOC website: www.guildfordopera.com

Those auditioning for the parts of Henry, Gomez, Catherine or Anne should sing the extracts as given on the website, in English, using the translation provided. These do not need to be learnt by heart and can be sung from copy. Those auditioning for the parts of Surrey or Norfolk may choose any suitable opera extract they wish.

Rehearsals

- Principals' rehearsals are held on **Wednesdays from 5.15 - 7.15 pm** at St John's Centre, 222 Epsom Road, Merrow GU4 7AA. Chorus rehearsals are held on the same day at Merrow Methodist church hall, GU1 2SH from 7.30 – 10pm and principals will be expected to attend these as required by the rehearsal schedule.
- In addition, rehearsals are held on three Sunday afternoons in the weeks leading up to the production and attendance at these is compulsory for all cast members including principals. These rehearsals will probably be held on Sundays in March and April.
- Every effort is made by the company to work around other commitments principals may have, but adequate notice must be given of all N/As
- Music rehearsals will start in late January / early February 2019
- Floor rehearsals will start in late February 2019.
- Principals are required to be prompt for all rehearsals. If you come by train, a lift from Guildford station can usually be arranged if adequate notice is given

Show week - Rehearsals and Performances

The venue for the production is The Holy Trinity Church, High Street, Guildford, GU1 3RR.

Show week dates are as follows:

Sitzprobe - Sunday May 12 - all day
Technical Rehearsal - Monday May 13 - evening
Dress Rehearsal - Tuesday May 14 - evening
Performances - Thursday May 16 and Friday 17 @7.30pm

Attendance at the Sitzprobe, Technical and Dress Rehearsals is absolutely compulsory.

Principals' Expenses

All principals will be provided with a free copy of the vocal score, posted to their address.

There are no fees but reasonable travel expenses can be claimed for rehearsals and the show week.

- a. Travel by public transport should be by the cheapest practical means, e.g. standard class off-peak day return.
- b. Travel by car at 20p per mile.

However, there is a cap of £20 per return trip whether by public transport or by car.

Receipts should be kept and sent or given to the Treasurer, Carlos Garcia, who is happy to answer queries with regard to expenses. Treasurer, Guildford Opera email: treasurer@guildfordopera.com.

Contact us

To book an audition slot or you have any questions about this document, please contact GOC by emailing the Auditions Secretary, Glenys Magill. email: publicity@guildfordopera.com