Deta In the Heart of the Opera World

WINI
TWO TICKETS TO THE 2015
INTERNATIONAL
OPERA AWARDS

# WHO WANTS TO BE AN OPERA SINGER?

The blood, sweat and tears behind success

# THINKING CAPS

Michael Tanner on the ideas that shape opera

# **FAIRER SEX**

Why don't more women compose opera?

# PUMEZA MATSHIKIZA

**TALENT BEATS THE ODDS** 

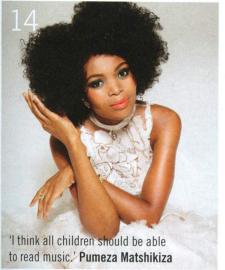
PLUS
Visiting Spain
Cardiff Singer
of the World



R

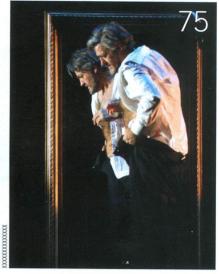
20+ INTERNATIONAL REVIEWS - SAIMIR PIRGU - COMPETITIONS 2015

# **CONTENTS**









### FRONT OF HOUSE

#### **5 EDITORIAL**

The hard road to success

#### **6 FEEDBACK**

Readers' letters, emails and online posts

#### 9 NEWS & NOTES

International Opera Awards announce 2015 finalists | Major new commission by Toronto's Canadian Opera Company | Letter from Cambodia | and more...

### IN THE WINGS

#### 12 ARTIST OF THE MONTH

British tenor Thomas Walker

## **MAIN STAGE**

#### 14 COVER FEATURE

South African soprano **Pumeza Matshikiza** talks about the challenges that shaped her childhood and fuelled her determination to become a star

#### 20 A WEEKEND IN...

Madrid – Spain's patrician capital offers a compelling mix of tradition, formality and all-night revelry

#### 23 OPERA LANDMARKS

From Barcelona to Seville, we visit Spain's most characterful operatic hotspots

#### **27 CAREER MOVES**

Robert Thicknesse confronts some of the obstacles faced by aspiring young singers

#### 31 A LEAP TO THE TOP

Cardiff Singer of the World is back again this summer. How does the competition continue to evolve and innovate?

#### 35 COMPETITIVE EDGE

Our pick of the world's key singing contests in 2015

#### 38 LIFE WITH MY VOICE

Working with great conductors is the best training a singer can get, says the Albanian tenor Saimir Pirgu

# 40 TRAVELS WITH MY OPERA GLASSES

Professor Anthony Ogus explores small-town Germany

#### 43 CRITICAL THINKING

A new series by Professor Michael Tanner, examining the philosophical and moral questions posed by some of opera's greatest works

#### **46 SQUILLO**

Michael White wonders why there aren't more operas written by women...

#### **47 NEXT ISSUE**

Get a sneak preview of Opera Now March

### THE CRITICAL VIEW

#### **49-75 LIVE REVIEWS**

Peer Gynt world premiere scores a hit for Norwegian National Opera | Paris's Théâtre du Châtelet stages superb new Gershwin show | Teatro Real excels in Britten | More new productions in London, Munich, Essen, Basel and Bern

## **MULTIMEDIA**

#### 77 NEW RELEASES

Opera on CD, DVD and Blu-ray

## **BACK STAGE**

#### 90 EPILOGUE

Opera Now's cryptic crossword and monthly prize draw for opera lovers

#### 81-88 SPOTLIGHT

Opera Now's
INTERNATIONAL
GUIDE
to the best live performances
this winter

**PLUS:** Opera on TV, online and in cinemas

#### COMPETITIONS

**9** Win tickets to the Barbican's UK premiere of *Alice in Wonderland* 

**90** Win two tickets to this year's International Opera Awards in London

