

# Opera Now

www.operanow.co.uk  
April 2015 | £4.95

AT THE HEART OF THE OPERA WORLD

## SUMMER SOUNDS

Festival hotspots  
in 2015

## GOING SOLO

Favourite arias to  
perform at home

## FLOWER POWER

Carolyn Sampson's  
Romantic inclinations

**WIN!**

A PAIR OF  
MEZE WOOD  
HEADPHONES

**PLUS**

School for lovers –  
are Mozart's Da Ponte  
operas still relevant?

Nathan Gunn on  
Rhinegold TV

# EDGARAS MONTVIDAS

A tenor for our times

20+ INTERNATIONAL REVIEWS • FOCUS ON FLORENCE • WORLDWIDE EVENTS GUIDE

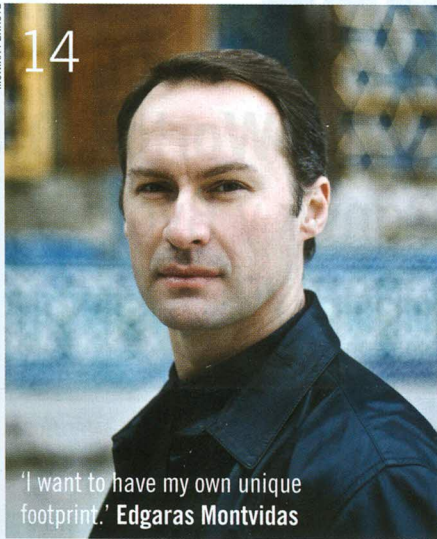


R.

# CONTENTS

MONIKA PENKUTE

14



'I want to have my own unique footprint.' Edgaras Montvidas

## FRONT OF HOUSE

### 5 EDITORIAL

Fruits of the summer

### 6 FEEDBACK

Readers' letters, emails and online posts

### 11 NEWS & NOTES

ENO appoints interim chief executive | New boss causes a stir at Argentina's Teatro Colón | Major improvements mooted for Sydney Opera House | and more...

## MAIN STAGE

### 14 COVER FEATURE

Tall, dark and handsome, Lithuanian-born **Edgaras Montvidas** is perfect for opera's romantic tenor leads, but says that when it comes to his voice, he's 'neither fish nor fowl'

### 23 A WEEKEND IN...

Riga – the Baltics' largest city has a proud operatic culture and strong tradition of singing

### 27 OPERA LANDMARKS

Elsewhere in the Baltics, we find out how opera has survived the upheavals of history

KATJA &amp; BERND HOPMANN

30



ROBERT WORMANN

72



### 30 FLOWER POWER

British soprano Carolyn Sampson introduces her new CD of songs inspired by flowers

### 33 SOUND INVESTMENT

Discover how a passion for music has inspired Jonathan and James Castle to become supporters of Rhinegold LIVE

### 35 FESTIVALS 2015

*Opera Now's* pick of the summer season, from the refinement of country house opera in England to the natural spectacle of stagings in the deserts of Israel and the US

### 41 HOUSE PROUD

Conductor Douglas Boyd maps out his vision for the future of Garsington Opera

### 53 RHINEGOLD TV

An interview with the American baritone Nathan Gunn launches our new online channel

### 57 TRAVELS WITH MY OPERA GLASSES

Anthony Ogus reports on a trio of rarities from South West Germany

### 61 CRITICAL THINKING

Can Mozart's *Così fan tutte* still teach us anything about relationships?

### 64 SQUILLO

Michael White looks back to a golden age of opera on TV

## THE CRITICAL VIEW

### 67-85 LIVE REVIEWS

Danish National Opera pioneers 'democratic opera' | Superb casting in ETO's new *Bohème* | Peter Sellars' thought-provoking *Indian Queen* comes to ENO | More new productions in London, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Antwerp and Florida

## MULTIMEDIA

### 86 NEW RELEASES

Opera on CD, DVD and Blu-ray

### 88 GREAT ARIAS

Learn to sing Puccini's 'Un bel dì' from *Madama Butterfly*

## BACK STAGE

### 92 COMPANY PROFILE

Opera di Firenze – a state-

SIMONE DONATI / TERRAPROJECT

92



of-the-art new house in the city where opera was born

### 102 EPILOGUE

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

### 95-101 SPOTLIGHT

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

**PLUS:** Opera on screen

### COMPETITIONS

**33** Win VIP tickets to Carolyn Sampson's Rhinegold LIVE recital on 29 April

**102** Win a pair of luxury wooden Meze headphones



COVER: Edgaras Montvidas. Photo by Monika Penkute