



About the Composer

Elena Langer's colourful, dramatic, appealing and often humorous music has become increasingly familiar to audiences through her pieces, operatic, vocal and orchestral. Her 2016 hit for Welsh National Opera, *Figaro Gets a Divorce*, was described by Rupert Christiansen in the *Daily Telegraph* as "that rare thing: a modern opera that exerts an immediate emotional impact." Her WNO follow-up, the 2018 vaudeville *Rhondda Rips It Up!* was wildly popular with audiences across the UK; *The Times* calling it "bursting with irreverent joy."

Elena Langer was born in Moscow; she studied piano and composition at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatoire, and in 1999 she moved to London, continuing her studies at the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music. She began writing operas while composer-in-residence at the Almeida Theatre. Her operatic and chamber works have been performed at Zurich Opera, Carnegie Hall, Grand Theatre de Geneve, Opera National du Rhin, Welsh National Opera, Shakespeare's Globe, Hong Kong Academy of Arts and the Linbury Theatre, Covent Garden. Harmonia Mundi released *Landscape with Three People*, a CD of Elena's vocal and chamber pieces.

Some future commissions include a comic opera *The Suicide* based on a play by Nikolay Erdman for Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Theatre (2021/22) and an orchestral suite from *Figaro Gets a Divorce* for Seattle Symphony (2020). BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra will perform the suite in February 2020.



Rhondda Rips It Up!

by Elena Langer & Emma Jenkins



The University of Arizona Opera Theater

Michael Dauphinais, music director & conductor

Cynthia Stokes, director

Fall 2019 - Crowder Hall

Friday November 8, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 10, 3:00 p.m.



Rhondda Rips It Up!

by Elena Langer & Emma Jenkins

American Première

Originally commissioned and produced by Welsh National Opera 2018 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of English women receiving the right to vote.

Friday & Sunday, November 8 & 10, 2019
Crowder Hall

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Cast

(In order of appearance)

An ensemble of women who will play a variety of characters, both men and women, as they celebrate the story of Margaret Haig Mackworth (née Thomas) Viscountess Lady Rhondda.

FEMALE ROLES

Margaret Haig Mackworth (née Thomas) Diana Peralta

A wealthy business woman and later the 2nd Viscountess Rhondda. A pioneering proponent of women's rights; her contribution to the cause of women's suffrage played a significant part in the granting of the Representation of the People's Act of 1918. A tireless and formidable heroine; as well as surviving the tragedy of the Lusitania she became Commissioner of the Women's National Service for Wales, recruiting female volunteers during World War I.

Sybil Thomas (née Haig) Frannie Barrows

Margaret's mother, also a suffragette.

Aunt Lottie..... Diana Olivares

Margaret's eccentric aunt and fellow suffragette.

Prid..... Savannah Hirst


Margaret's old school friend and fellow suffragette.

Edith Lester Jones Rebeckah Resare

A friend of Margaret's and a fellow suffragette. A drama teacher; she taught elocution to the ladies of Cardiff and Newport.

Helen Archdale..... Erika Burkhart

A journalist and advocate for female suffrage. She was also a close friend of Margaret and later, became her lover.



Terms

A *Peer of the Realm* - in the United Kingdom, *Peerages* are a hierarchy of noble rank. Fathers passed their own titles of nobility to their children. This title allowed its recipient the ability to sit in the House of Lords, unless you were a woman, in which case you could hold your rank, but not participate in governing or vote, or have access to your own money, land, etc.

The *Cat and The Mouse Act*, United Kingdom: The government sought to deal with the problem of hunger striking suffragettes with the 1913 Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health) Act, commonly known as the Cat and Mouse Act. This Act allowed for the early release of prisoners who were so weakened by hunger striking that they were at risk of death. They were to be recalled to prison once their health was recovered, where the process would begin again.

– www.ukparliament.com


Mission Statement

The Opera Theater program at The University of Arizona promotes opera as a living and essential art form; opera provokes, thrills and transforms human lives through its unique combination of music and storytelling. The Opera Theater Program will raise the quality and awareness of opera in the local Tucson, surrounding borderland area and throughout the state of Arizona. We are committed to diverse programming including production of new and contemporary works; works in English and in Spanish; standard repertory; and the essential re-imagining of operatic works for the stage. The Opera Theater program encourages the development of young opera artists as well as cultivating opera enthusiasts of the future. We will build a community of passionate devoted experts who will ensure the success of our students, as they become opera practitioners, teachers and leaders of the future.

Special Thanks

Jeremy Huw Williams, Michael Mordan, Tucson League of Women Voters, Professor Tannis Gibson; College of Fine Arts Dean's Office, Dean Andrew Schulz, Sharon K. Young, and Andrea Zetterberg; The Fred Fox School of Music, Rex Woods Director, Amy Burmeister, Jacqueline Shrestha, Moisés Paiewonsky, Cassie Van Gelder, Daniel Asia, Bonnie Bird, Ingví Kallen and Mindi Acosta; Joseph Farbrook; College of Fine Arts Development Office; UA School of Film, Theatre, and Television Costume Shop, Ted Kraus and Joe Klug at the School of Film, Theatre and Television; Todd Poelstra and Pima Community College Drama Department; Tuesday Hinkle, The Teare Family

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Production

Music Director and Conductor..... Michael Dauphinais
Stage Director Cynthia Stokes
Set and Projection Design Sally Day
Production Manager Carson Scott
Technical Director, Master Carpenter Owen Witzeman
Costume Design Chris Allen
Accompanist Minjun Dong
Chorus Accompanist Loren Mitchel
Stage Manager David Asher
Lighting..... Tyler Petersen
Sound Design Kiara Johnson
Supertitles..... Octavio Moreno and Katie Kang
Supertitle Operator..... Octavio Moreno
Spot Operators..... Tuesday Hinkle and Lee Mileur
Assistant Stage Manager Samantha Cole

Orchestra

Accordion..... Loren Mitchel
Bass Charlie Welty
Cello..... Katie Capp
Clarinet..... Martin Duarte
Drums..... Michal Brauhn
Piano..... Minjun Dong
Saxophones..... Ashley Krogstad
Trumpet..... Tony Belletti
Trombone..... Alex Hunter
Tuba..... Jesse Factor
Violin..... Ylia Chuffe

Voice and Opera Theater Team

Dr. Kristin Dauphinais mezzo soprano
Professor Yunah Lee soprano
Dr. William “Andrew” Stuckey..... baritone
Professor Cynthia Stokes, M.F.A...... opera theatre
Dr. Michael Dauphinais opera coach
Sally Day, M.F.A. scenography
Chris Allen costume design and costume shop manager
Opera GTA Octavio Moreno



MALE ROLES

Emcee..... **Piper Pack-Smith**

A music hall style compere who is a woman dressed as a man. The Emcee provides links and interludes between the scenes. In addition to hosting, she plays various male roles including:

David Alfred Thomas

Margaret’s father: a wealthy coal owner, industrialist and later a Liberal MP and 1st Viscount Rhondda.

Humphrey Mackworth

Margaret’s husband; Master of the Hunt and a keen breeder of dogs.

David Lloyd George

Chancellor of the Exchequer and later Prime Minister under whose Government the Representation of the People Act of 1918 was introduced, which allowed women of property, over the age of 30, to have the right to vote.

OTHER MALE ROLES:

Lord Birkenhead..... **Crystal Kachevas**

A prominent member of the House of Lords and a vociferous opponent of Women’s Suffrage.

Lord Herbert Henry Esquire **Bridget Marlowe**

The Prime Minister and an opponent of Women’s Suffrage. The notorious Cat and Mouse Act of 1913 was brought in under his Government.

Winston Churchill..... **Lylah Field**

Home Secretary and later, First Lord of the Admiralty under Asquith’s Government.

SMALLER ROLES

Commander Turner..... **Joshua Hill**

Captain of the fateful Cunard Liner, The Lusitania.

Butler

An old retainer at a Gentleman’s Club in Pall Mall frequented by senior members of the Government.

Speaker of the House of Commons

Announces the arrival of the Prime Minister, David Lloyd George.

Policemen and an anti-suffragette man





ENSEMBLE

Nannette Avendano, Olivia Bustos, Frannie Barrows, Joshua Hill,
Crystal Kachevas, Lylah Field, Yue Huang, Katie Kang,
Bridget Marlowe, Diana Olivares, Diana Peralta,
Rebeckah Resare
Marie Teement

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PLACE: A theater

TIME: now

Act 1
Overture

Scene 1 - she was a Newport Suffragette

Entr'acte #1 - They went to Downing Street

Scene 2 - Oh what a day!

Brechtian Vignette #1 - Gentlemen and Ladies
Ladies put your Brandy Snaps Away

Atonal interlude

Entr'acte #2 - A hunting we will go

Scene #3 - How goes marriage, Margaret?

Entr'acte #3 - She was a Newport Suffragette with needs and appetites

Scene #4 - A feast of food and knowledge, then News

Entr'acte #4 - Shout, Shout!

Scene #4 - War is declared!

The Fight

Brechtian Vignette #2 - A suffragette is a loveless whore

Entr'acte #5

Scene #5- Forward Sister Women

Scene #6- Suffragettes, they are at it again!

Brechtian Vignette #3- I'd give them a damn good spank!



Entr'acte #6

Scene #6 - The black currant bush, the postal box

Scene #7 - Unhand my daughter, Constable

Scene #8 - To prison she will go

INTERMISSION

Act 2

Scene #9 - Dearest Father

Entr'acte #7 - I met a man

Scene #10 - A Stuffy Men's Club

Entr'acte #8 - I met a man

Scene #11 - Sybil and Lottie fetch Margaret from Prison

Scene #12 - Elocution Class, Helen's aria text by Aphra Behn

Brechtian Vignette #4 - War is declared!

Scene #13 - Women, your country needs you

Scene #14 - Good-bye

Scene #15 -The Lusitania, EMCEE's aria
text and music by Harry Roy and his Bat Club Boys

Entr'acte #9 - Cast off your corsets

Scene #16 - It's alright, it was just a nightmare

Brechtian Vignette #5 - The Prime Minister, Mr. David Lloyd George

Scene #17 - Election Day

Finale

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