

Press Release

15 September 2008



Chiddingstone Castle attracts opera Divas

Continuing on from previous successful opera events held at Chiddingstone Castle in Kent this year, Opera Bespoke returns on Saturday 8th and Saturday 29th of November, for a fantastic evening of entertainment.

Opera Bespoke will be presenting a unique insight into the story of opera, how it really is, the divas, the dramas and the unforeseen disasters!

Trained in Italy Peter Knapp is well qualified to talk about this exotic form of entertainment. He began his career at Glyndebourne and went on to sing for English National Opera and many other companies at home and abroad, clocking up some

50 roles and performing in many different situations. He is accompanied by the talented Mezzo -Soprano Margaret Rapacioli and the thrilling pianist Simon Hester. The evening promises to give an enlightening personal review of the opera scene, making it perfect for those who have always wanted to know everything there is to know about opera!

Set in an historic country location, Chiddingstone Castle is well placed to host this event, which covers the history of Opera from its earliest beginnings in the seventeenth century to the birth of the American musical at the beginning of the twentieth. Throughout the evening there will be duets by Mozart and Rossini and arias by Verdi, Bizet and Puccini as well as a few enchanting musical surprises. The evening is guaranteed to appeal to both opera buffs and complete newcomers alike, there is even an opportunity to join the singers in a rousing opera chorus.

The show has previously been performed by Opera Bespoke at the Festival Theatre (Edinburgh), Harewood House (Leeds) The Swan Theatre (Stratford – upon – avon), The Grand Opera House (Belfast) Windsor Castle, Chateau de Berne (Provence) and over a hundred other prestigious venues.

Chiddingstone Castle is the perfect location for Opera with its well preserved rooms offering an intimate setting in beautiful countryside surroundings, close to Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells.

The show starts at 8 pm and tickets cost £22. To buy tickets please call the box office 0208 354 3112. Tickets can also be purchased at Chiddingstone Post office in Chiddingstone village.

For more information including high res images and requests for interviews, please call Caroline Edmunds of Pennington PR on 01892 616647 or email her at caroline@penningtonpr.com

Editor's Notes

1. Everything you ever wanted to know about opera is on Saturday 8th and 29th of November from 8pm at Chiddingstone Castle, Hill Hoath Road, Chiddingstone, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 7AD.
2. Chiddingstone Castle is open until 28 September on Thursday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays from 11am to 5pm.
3. Admission is £6 adult, £4 child (5-13), child <5 free, £18 family (2+2) or £60 for a family season ticket. (Reduced prices for grounds only).
4. Visit www.chiddingstonecastle.org.uk or call 01892 870347 for more information.