

OCC

Opera Collective Ireland



Photo: Alex Bremner

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

**A FAMILY OPERA BY WILL TODD
& MAGGIE GOTTLIEB**

arts
council
scottish
ealaion



IRISH
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

RTE
SUPPORTING THE
arts

OPERA
HOLLAND
PARK

Commissioned and originally produced by Opera Holland Park



On Tour

1 APRIL 2022

Watergate Theatre,
Kilkenny

3 APRIL 2022

Solstice Arts Centre,
Navan

6 APRIL 2022

Lime Tree Theatre,
Limerick

8 & 9 APRIL 2022

Pavilion Theatre,
Dún Laoghaire

ooc



Adventures in Wonderland

Alice is 11 years old, and lives in a town that's not terribly exciting.

On a dull Wednesday in the summer holidays Alice and her family get caught in a downpour while wandering around the town.



They rush to the nearest shelter, in what turns out to be a pet shop – much to Alice's parents' delight.

Alice is lost in a daydream... Suddenly she is jotted out of her dreams by one of the animals – a white rabbit – who starts talking to her...



Before Alice knows it she's whisked off down the rabbit-hole where she meets a whole host of fantastic characters including a relaxed caterpillar, happy cat, depressive hare, mad hatter and sleepy dormouse.



The Queen of Hearts is very cross and after the Mad Hatter's tea party, all of the residents are forced to work in her jam tart factory, under the watchful eyes of Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

It's Alice's job to save Wonderland.



DO try this at home

Did you know that the story of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is based on a famous book by the English author Lewis Carroll? If you haven't read it yet then head to your local library and check it out. You won't regret it!



Creative Team

Composer

Will Todd

Répétiteur

Jeremy Cooke

Stage Manager

Millie McElhinney

Librettist

Maggie Gottlieb

Répétiteur

Andrew Synnott

Original Director

Martin Duncan

Director

Caroline Chaney

Make-up/Wigs

Carole Dunne

Original Designer

Leslie Travers

Assistant Director

Dominic O'Brien*

Assistant Make-up

Sarah Byrne*

**Member of Opera Collective Ireland's Intern Mentoring Programme.*

Conductor

Stephen Barlow

Lighting Designer

Rory Harkin

Assistant Conductor

Mary Walsh*

Costume Supervisor

Cherie White

Characters

Alice

Jessica Hackett

White Rabbit

Rory Musgrave

Alice's Mother

| Mad Hatter

Anna Brady

Alice's Father |

Queen of Hearts

Christopher Bowen

Bottle | Duchess

Kelli-Ann Masterson

Caterpillar

Fionn Ó hAlmhain

White Knight |

March Hare

Malachy Frame

Humpty Dumpty |

Dormouse

Caroline Behan

Brat 1 | Tweedledee

Laura Aherne

Brat 2 | Tweedledum

Ellen Mawhinney

Cheshire Cat

Francesco Giusti

(1, 6, 9 April)

Eoin Conway

(3 & 8 April)

Victorian 1

Aisling McCarthy

Victorian 2

Anna-Helene

MacLachlan

Victorian 3

Luke Horner

Victorian 4

Matthew Mannion

Photo: Alex Brenner



Irish Chamber Orchestra

Gerard Keenan CEO

Katherine Hunka Violin 1 (Leader)	Malachy Robinson Double Bass	Caitríona Frost Percussion
André Swanepoel Violin 2	Brendan Doyle Flute/Alto Sax	Dermot Dunne Accordion
Joachim Roewer Viola	Colm Byrne Trumpet	Andrew Synnott Piano
Christian Elliot Cello	Paul Frost Trombone	

OCI Team

Artistic Director Colette McGahon	Marketing & PR Muireann Sheahan
Project Administrator Pauline Ashwood	Programme Design Marshall Light Studio

Opera Collective Ireland wishes to thank Welsh National Opera, TU Dublin, Irish National Opera and IADT, as well as our OCI Friends who have contributed so generously.

Cast Biographies



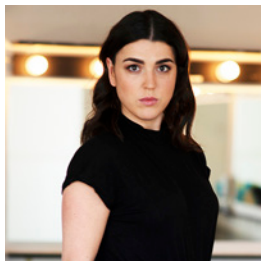
Jessica Hackett *soprano*

Jessica graduated with distinction from the MA in Opera Performance course at the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama in 2021. Since graduating, she has sung with Irish National Opera in their productions of *Fidelio* and *Carmen* and has won several awards both in musical theatre and opera. She was a studio artist with Northern Ireland Opera for their 2018/2019 season and her theatrical and operatic engagements with Northern Ireland Opera include: Miss Jessel *The Turn of the Screw*, Donna Anna *Don Giovanni*, La Contessa *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Lucy *The Telephone*, Johanna *Sweeney Todd*, Fanny *La cambiale di matrimonio*, Mouse *Pamplermousse*, Calisto *Daphnis et Chloé* and Soprano 2 in Vivaldi's *Gloria*.



Rory Musgrave *baritone*

Rory's roles with Opera Collective Ireland include Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Eumete in *The Return of Ulysses* and The Mayor of Youghal in *Vagabones*. In 2019 he made his international operatic debut singing the role of Young Kelvin in the Japanese premier of *Solaris* by Dai Fugikura (Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre, Japan), and other recent roles include Marco Gianni *Schicchi* (Blackwater Valley Opera Festival), Marcello *La Bohème*, Germont *La Traviata* and Guglielmo *Così fan Tutte* (Cork Opera House). He has also sung Camillo *Ein Wintermärchen* and Sextus *What happened to Lucrece* (Wexford Festival Opera). Upcoming projects in 2022 include singing the title role of *Eugene Onegin* (Opera Holland Park Young Artists Production), and Il Re di Napoli *La Tempesta* (Wexford Festival Opera).



Anna Brady *mezzo-soprano*

Anna is a graduate of the Masters in Vocal Studies from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She made her role debut as Romeo in Bellini's *I Capuletti e I Montecchi* and as Linda in the world premiere of Andrew Synnott's *The 47th Saturday* with Wexford Festival Opera in October 2022. She was an inaugural member of the Wexford Festival Opera Factory Academy Programme in 2021/22 and the recipient of the Price Waterhouse Cooper Emerging Artist Bursary in 2021. She performed the role of Mistress Quickly in Verdi's *Falstaff* which was recorded by RTÉ and distributed on YouTube in a 6 part series. Anna made her role debut as Cherubino in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Lyric Opera Studio Weimar in 2021.



Christopher Bowen *tenor*

Christopher is originally from New Zealand and moved to Dublin from London in 2020. He has performed a broad array of music, from the role of Daniel in the 12th Century in *Play of Daniel* to creating the role of Rawley Beaunes in Alasdair Nicolson's opera *The Iris Murder*. Recent roles include Samuel Beckett in Tom Smail's *Blue Electric* and a staging of Britten's *Canticles* at the Cheltenham and Presteigne festivals. He recently premiered Ina Boyle's *Lament for Bion* with the RTÉ Contempo Quartet and recorded song cycles by Scottish New Zealand composer Lyell Cresswell for *The Art of Black and White*. He has performed Bach's *Weihnachts-Oratorium* with the Academy of Ancient Music, Schütz's *Weihnachtshistorie* with the BBC Singers and *A Patchwork Passion* at the BBC Proms.



Kelli-Ann Masterson *soprano*

Kelli-Ann is a former member of both the ABL Irish National Opera studio from 2019–2021 and Northern Ireland Opera Studio from 2018–2019. Recent engagements with Irish National Opera include Marzelline *Fidelio* and Rebecca *A Thing I Cannot Name*. In 2019 Kelli-Ann was awarded both the PwC

bursary for an emerging Irish artist and the Liam Healy Bursary at Wexford Festival Opera. She made her professional opera debut with Opera Collective Ireland in 2019 singing the role of Vespetta *Pimpinone* and created the role of Donal in the world premiere of Raymond Deane's *Vagabones*. Upcoming roles in 2022 include Amor in *Orfeo ed Euridice* with Blackwater Valley Opera Festival and the title role in *Semele* with Opera Collective Ireland in association with Kilkenny Arts Festival and Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin.



Fionn Ó hAlmhain *bass*

Fionn has performed with Irish National Opera, Blackwater Valley Opera Festival, Lyric Opera, the Salford Choral Society, Piccadilly Symphony Orchestra, North Wales Opera, and the Yorke Trust Opera. He made his debut with Opera Collective Ireland as Ned Perry and the Jailer in the world premiere of Raymond Deane's *Vagabones* and was accepted into the Glyndebourne Academy in 2017. Fionn is currently a member of the Northern Ireland Opera Studio and will be undertaking postgraduate study at the Royal Academy of Music in London from September.



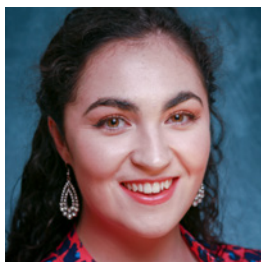
Malachy Frame *baritone*

Malachy was Northern Ireland Opera's 'Voice of 2016' and was the winner of the Song Prize at the inaugural Charles Wood Singing Competition in 2019. Recent operatic roles have included Figaro in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Slook in Rossini's *La Cambiale di Matrimonio*, Leporello and Masetto in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Count Ceprano in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and Aeneas in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. As a concert soloist, recent performances have included Britten's *War Requiem*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, *Magnificat*, *St John Passion*, and *St Matthew Passion*, Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah* and *Alexander's Feast*, and Vaughan-Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*.



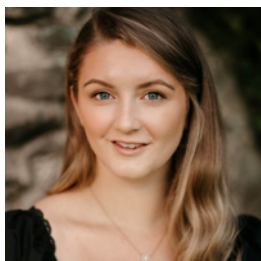
Caroline Behan *soprano*

Caroline is studying for a Masters in Music Performance at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and will continue her postgraduate studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in September. In 2021 she was the inaugural winner of the Song Prize at the Northern Ireland Opera Festival of Voice and she is also a previous winner of the “Best Performance of an Art Song in English” at the Irené Sandford Competition at RIAM. Caroline’s operatic roles include Venus in Purcell’s *King Arthur*, Serpina in Pergolesi’s *La Serva Padrona*, Giunone in Cavalli’s *La Calisto* and Damigiella in Caccini’s *Alcina*. In 2017 Caroline was awarded a scholarship to travel to Milan to perform in the Bassi Brugnattelli International Singing and Conducting Symposium.



Laura Aherne *soprano*

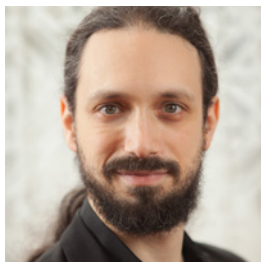
Laura is in the final year of her BMus in Performance at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and is making her professional debut in this Opera Collective Ireland production. Her recent performances include the role of Philadell in the Royal Irish Academy of Music’s production of *King Arthur* and Dream Person in RIAM and IADT’s film *Dreamcatcher*. She has performed with the chorus of Lyric Opera Ireland for their productions of *The Barber of Seville* and *Fidelio*. She was awarded second place in the 2021 Irené Sandford Singing Competition at RIAM and has been offered a scholarship to pursue a Master’s degree in the Royal College of Music, London.



Ellen Mawhinney *soprano*

Ellen has recently won Northern Ireland Opera’s Young Opera Voice of the Year award, as well as the Irish Heritage Bursary Award. She has been a featured artist live on BBC Radio 3’s *In Tune* and has recorded with BBC NI as their spotlight recitalist for Classical Connections. Ellen is Young Artist for Leeds Lieder and has also received the Duo Award at the Dartington

Festival. Ellen's opera performances include *Die Fledermaus* with Northern Ireland Opera, the roles of Gretel, Konstanze and Marguerite at the Royal Scottish Conservatoire, Scottish Opera's concert production of Prokofiev's *The Fiery Angel* and Jonathon Dove's *The Day After*.



Francesco Giusti *countertenor*

Francesco was born in Bologna and studied piano, organ, composition and musicology in Bologna and Ferrara. He was a member of Northern Ireland Opera Studio in Belfast for the 2018/2019 season, during which time he performed in productions of Scarlatti/Bononcini's *La Dirindina* and Greg Caffrey's *Pamplémousse*. He is a member of the Irish National Opera ABL Studio for the current 2021/2022 season, and was the cover for Tamerlano in INO's production of Vivaldi's *Bajazet*, which saw his Royal Opera House debut in February 2022. Future engagements include a new stage production, *Battaglia 17*, by young German director/violinist Matthias Klenota, which will tour Switzerland, including both new and early music and a semi-staged concert series of Handel's *Messiah*.



Eoin Conway *countertenor*

Eoin is a countertenor, conductor, arranger and pianist. He earned his Master's degree in vocal performance from the Royal Irish Academy of Music in 2016 and made his professional opera debut as Peisander/Human Frailty in Opera Collective Ireland's production of Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses* in 2018. He has sung the roles of Fileno in Handel's *Clori, Tirsi e Fileno*, and Nerillo Cavalli's *Ormindo* in productions with the Royal Irish Academy of Music. He is a multiple prizewinner at Dublin's Feis Ceoil and is musical director of the vocal quartet 4 in a Bar. Eoin is a regular singer with The Norwegian Soloists Choir and his arrangements are published by Cailíno Music Publishers and sung around the world.



Aisling McCarthy *soprano*

Aisling holds a BMus degree from TU Dublin Conservatory of Music and Drama and is currently studying for her MMus at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Her operatic roles include Amore in Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, Zerlina and Despina in scenes from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan Tutte* with TU Dublin Conservatoire, Ilia and Sister Constance in scenes from Mozart's *Idomeneo* and Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites* with Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Fiametta in *The Gondoliers* with the Rathmines & Rathgar Musical Society, Attendant in Handel's *Susanna* with Yorke Trust Opera and The Mother in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* with Lyric Opera Ireland. In oratorio, Aisling has sung as soprano soloist in Fauré's *Requiem* with the Culwick Choral Society and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Jubilate Choir.



Anna-Helena Maclachlan *mezzo-soprano*

Anna-Helena is in the third year of her BMus Vocal Performance Degree at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. She has won many awards, including the Irene Sandford Award 2020 and the Veronica Dunne Irish Bursary. Anna-Helena played the role of Cold Genius in RIAM's production of Purcell's *King Arthur* and was recently involved in Iain Burnside's song project *Open your eyes and tell me what you see*. In April, she will perform in a concert of Colman Pearce's works including *Summerfest* and *Memories of Childhood*. In July, she will perform the role of Nerone in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with the Saluzzo Opera Academy. She will also be participating in the 2022 Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition in late summer.



Luke Horner *tenor*

Luke is currently studying for a Masters of Music at Trinity Laban, London and is also an honours graduate of TU Dublin's Conservatory of Music & Drama. Most recently, Luke performed as Contino Belfiore in scenes from Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera* and as Lensky in scenes from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* with Trinity Laban's Opera Ensemble. He has also performed the role of Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'amore* with Opera Viva, Torquemada from Ravel's *L'Heure Espagnole* with TU Dublin's Opera Ensemble and Don Basilio/Don Curzio from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* with the Zêzere Arts Festival, Portugal. Luke is also an accomplished oratorio soloist and has performed Bach's *Magnificat* and *Johannes Passion* and Handel's *Messiah*, in various venues throughout Ireland.



Matthew Mannion *baritone*

Matthew is a Masters student in the Royal Irish Academy of Music where he has performed the title role in Purcell's *King Arthur* as well as singing the role of Melisso in Händel's *Alcina* with the Saluzzo Opera Academy. Matthew was selected as a guest artist in the Rising Stars 2021 Concert Series in the University of Limerick Concert Hall. In 2020–21 at RIAM he sang the roles of Uberto *La Serva Padrona*, Giove in Cavalli's *La Calisto* and in 2018–19 he created the role of Owen in the world premiere of *The Stalls* in Cork Opera House, sang First Priest in *Die Zauberflöte* with Irish National Opera, toured with Irish National Opera's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, created the role of Liam in Tom Lane's *BackStage* at Cork Midsummer Festival and sang the title role in the Irish premiere of Judith Weir's *Scipio's Dream* at RIAM.

Creative Team Biographies



Will Todd *composer*

English composer Will Todd is well known for his beautiful and exciting music. His work encompasses choral works large and small, opera, musical theatre and orchestral pieces, as well as jazz compositions and chamber works. His anthem, *The Call of Wisdom*, was performed at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations with a TV audience of 45 million people. His breakthrough work, *Mass in Blue* has been performed hundreds of times all over the world. His arrangement of *Amazing Grace* was performed at President Obama's Inauguration Day prayer service in 2013 and as part of the BBC's Nelson Mandela Thanksgiving Service. He has written operas for Opera North, Opera Holland Park, Streetwise Opera, The Buxton Festival, Tête à Tête Festival and Welsh National Opera.

Maggie Gottlieb *librettist*

Maggie is a freelance journalist, translator and writer who was educated in London and Moscow, and splits her time between England and Ireland. Maggie has written the words for her favourite composer Will Todd's marvellous show *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, commissioned by Opera Holland Park, which was premiered in 2013 and ran for five years, as well as for Will's *Songs of Love and Battle* for Opera North in 2018.



Caroline Chaney *director*

Caroline was born in Manchester and trained in ballet. After a degree in Education, she worked as an actor and puppeteer. She then worked in floor management for the BBC, stage management for Welsh National Opera, the Royal Opera House and Opera North and company management for Welsh National Opera and Glyndebourne, before joining

Welsh National Opera full time as Staff Director. Caroline has recently directed *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Rigoletto*, *The Magic Flute*, *Don Giovanni* and *Eugene Onegin* for Welsh National Opera, and has been Associate Director for *Les vêpres siciliennes* (WNO) and *Sweeney Todd* at La Monnaie and Den Kongelige Opera | The Royal Danish Opera.



Stephen Barlow conductor

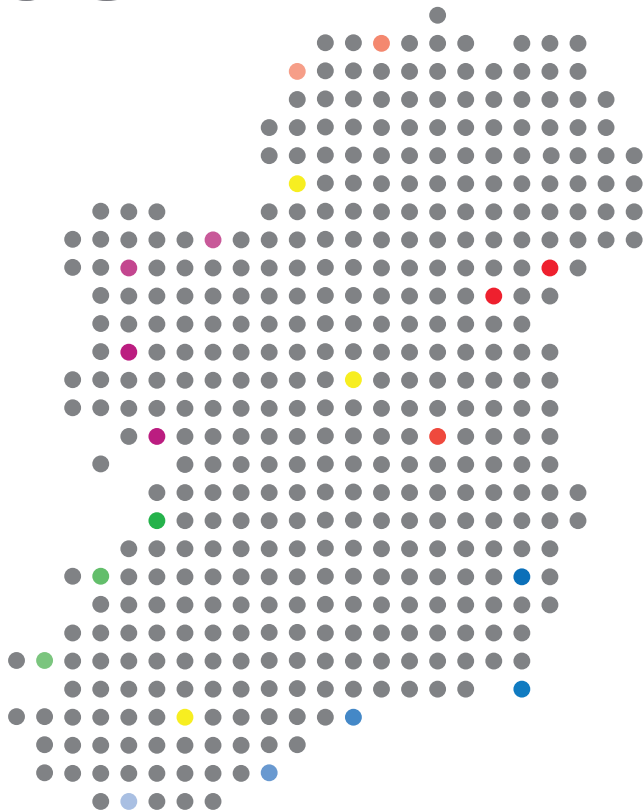
Stephen was Artistic Director of the Buxton Festival from 2011–2018 and he has also held the positions of Resident Conductor at English National Opera and Artistic Director of Opera Northern Ireland. He has worked with Scottish Opera, Dublin Grand Opera, Opera North, the Royal Opera House and most of the major UK orchestras. His recent and current projects include *La Cenerentola* (Staatsoper, Stuttgart), *Medeé*, *Koanga* (Wexford Festival); *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (Beijing); *The Life and Death of Alexander Litvinenko*, *Porgy and Bess*, *La Bohème*, *Romeo et Juliette*, *Die Walküre*, *La Fanciulla del West*, *Capriccio*, *Rusalka*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *Pique Dame*, *Dialogues des Carmélites*, *Peter Grimes*, *Falstaff*, *Norma* (Grange Park Opera); *Macbeth*, *Leonore*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Louise*, *Jacobin*, *La Princesse Jaune*, *La Colombe*, *Intermezzo*, *The Barber of Baghdad* (Buxton Festival); *Otello* (Birmingham Opera Company); *The Rape of Lucretia*, *Owen Wingrave* (Opera Collective Ireland) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Guildhall School of Music).



Leslie Travers designer

Award-winning designer Leslie Travers trained at the Wimbledon School of Art, and is now recognised as one of the leading stage designers of his generation. Current and most recent projects include *Francesca da Rimini* and *Manon Lescaut* (La Scala, Milan), *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (Oper Leipzig), *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Israeli Opera), *I Puritani* (Gran Teatro del Liceu, Barcelona), *Werther* (Opéra National de Lorraine, winner of Prix de la critique Claude Rostand prize, and then Opéra de Québec and Marseille), *Al Wasl* (Welsh National Opera at

Dubai Expo), *Le Baron Tzigane* (Grand Théâtre de Genève), *Katya Kabanova* (Scottish Opera and Theater Magdeburg), *Billy Budd* and *The Merry Widow* (Opera North), *Peter Grimes* (Theater Magdeburg), *The Excursions of Mr Broucek* (Grange Park Opera), *The Marriage of Figaro* (Kansas City Opera/Opera Philadelphia/San Diego Opera), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Malmö Opera), *Clemenza di Tito* (Opera Theatre of St Louis), *Carmen* (Welsh National Opera), *Orfeus: A House Music Opera* (Young Vic Theatre), *Twelfth Night* and *Death of a Salesman* (Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre).



**RTÉ supports more than
120 arts events nationwide
every year.**

rte.ie/about/supportingthearts