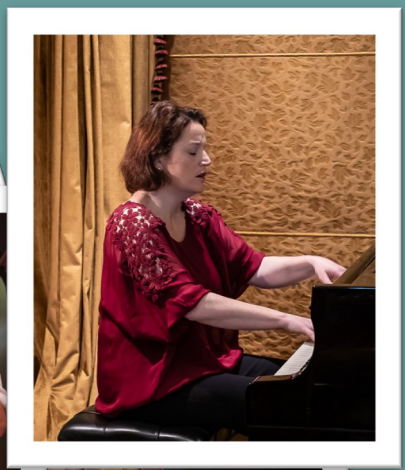


Cameratina '24



Welcome to **Cameratina 2024** and to our second prospectus.

The purpose of this prospectus is to provide sufficient details of our music weekend in April 2024 to allow potential donors to decide whether they wish to donate to support this event.

We explain what the event is and why we believe it deserves your donation. We also cover the practical details of where the event is held, what social events are planned around the music and how the finances are expected to work.

The final section covers more about Cameratina Limited (“Cameratina”), what its aims are, how it is structured and who are the people behind the organisation.

We are endeavouring to be as open as possible about this venture so if anything is not clear either see our website at www.cameratina.org or contact Nigel Masters at nigel.b.masters@btinternet.com .

Alison Munro

Chair, Cameratina Limited

What are we **planning** for April 2024?

On 19th, 20th and 21st of April 2024, Cameratina is hosting a weekend of fine music with the working title **FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT: The Many Shades of Puccini**. This celebrates the centenary year of Giacomo Puccini's death. Seven young opera singers will explore the dramatic roles created by Puccini, his influences and his followers. The programme has been designed by our Artistic Director, Susanna Stranders, who will also accompany the singers throughout the programme.

Susanna is already well known to previous donors having created the critically acclaimed Viardot200 event for us in 2022 and our Coronation offering Fairest Isle with Roddy Williams in 2023. Susanna is on the music staff of the Royal Opera House and also coaches at leading conservatoires in the UK and abroad.

Her website is at www.susannastranders.com.

Our guest performer is one of the UK's finest ever exponents of the bass voice, **SIR JOHN TOMLINSON**. Sir John is rightly famous for his interpretation of the great roles of Wagnerian opera, as well as a great breadth of characters across fifty years of music-making, both in performance and recordings.

His recent appearances include King Lear in The Shackled King by John Casken, Swallow in Peter Grimes at Covent Garden, King Mark in Tristan and Isolde, and the title role in The Mikado at the ENO.



Susanna and Sir John will be joined by seven of the finest emerging talents of the current British opera world. While casting continues, we are delighted that our two lead performers, Felix Kemp as Michele and Victoria Armillotta as Giorgetta, have already agreed to be part of Cameratina 2024. Both are emerging stars of UK opera and both have their own websites detailing their successes to date.

The seven young stars selected will be the cast of our opera and support Sir John in a recital.

The musical **programme** will include:

Puccini's dark melodrama **IL TABARRO**. This will be directed by Sir John with musical direction from Susanna. The costumes and set designer will be Siobhan Chapman, who works regularly with Cameratina, including the beautiful 2022 production of Viardot's Cinderella and the re-creation of a 1950's kitchen for A Dinner Engagement last year. Sir John first performed in Il Tabarro in 1970.

Vissi d'arte, vissi d'amore: **A RECITAL OF ARIAS AND SONGS** illustrating the dramatic range of the music of Puccini, the composers who influenced him, and those he inspired.

A **CUP OF COFFEE WITH SIR JOHN** in conversation with Susanna discussing his career as well as the current state of British opera from his fifty-year perspective. This conversation will be exclusive to donors and their guests and will include Sir John performing some of his own favourite songs. Will G&S get a mention?

Sir John will lead a **WORKSHOP WITH THE CAST OF IL TABARRO**, exploring the art of preparing and performing the dramatic roles associated with Puccini's greatest operas. Other items may be included as details are finalised.

Why does Cameratina's weekend of music **deserve** your **support**?

Cameratina's weekends are, of course, designed to provide wonderful, out of the ordinary music for both donors and the general public. Its small scale allows the audience to enjoy performances that bring an intimacy and immediacy not possible in larger venues. Donors also get to enjoy socialising with the musicians in completely relaxed surroundings.

But this cannot happen with only ticket sales. Additional donations are essential as the budget below shows.

Equally as important, the weekend allows the emerging stars of the next generation of British operatic talent the chance to polish their skills before a group of positive and enthusiastic supporters. In this case, there is also the advantage for them of working directly with two of the most established performers and teachers, Susanna and Sir John. And they receive a much-appreciated fee.

With public funding being cut across the British opera world, it is essential that the private funding groups such as Cameratina re-double their efforts to create opportunities for these stars of the future – and ensure that we have fresh new talent to enjoy in the years ahead.

How will the weekend be organised?

As on previous occasions, the weekend will be staged in Osborne, Dorset, centred on St Cuthbert's church as the main music venue, with The Grange Hotel, also in Osborne, as the main venue for social events.

Donors are drawn both from the local area and from across the country. Performances and social events are organised to be convenient for both those near at hand and those travelling long distances.

For those not familiar with the area, Osborne is a small and very rural village about two miles outside Sherborne in Dorset. It sits in a picturesque valley on the Dorset-Somerset border. Sherborne itself is an ancient market town built around its medieval Abbey. It is on the direct London to Exeter mainline and is about two and a half hours from Waterloo station.

St Cuthbert's church, in the centre of Osborne, is a small village church, built in a simple Victorian Gothic style and blessed with a fine acoustic that shows off vocal music.

There is one hotel in Osborne, The Grange Hotel, with other hotels in Sherborne and the surrounding countryside. Jon and Jenny Fletcher, our hosts at The Grange Hotel, allow us to take over the hotel solely for donors, which makes for a very relaxed weekend with fine food and wine. The performers join subscribers for meals and other social events so that it is easy to get to know these stars of the future personally.



The Grange offers a package that covers the cost of the social events for the weekend which is available to both resident and non-resident donors.

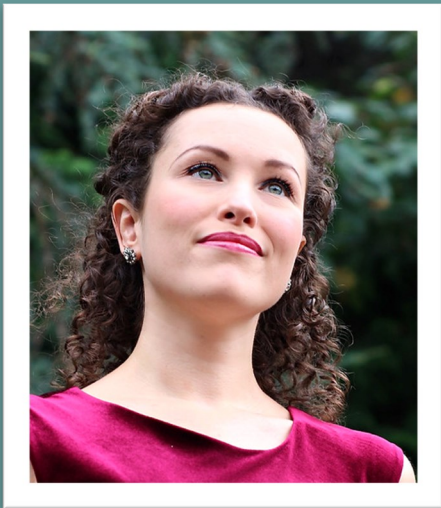
With the establishment of Cameratina Limited, the charitable company that supports the music for the weekend, it is important to keep the activities of the charity separate from the events organised exclusively for donors. Accordingly, the package is priced separately from the musical performances as the social events are hosted directly by The Grange and not by Cameratina Limited.

How do the **finances** of Cameratina work?

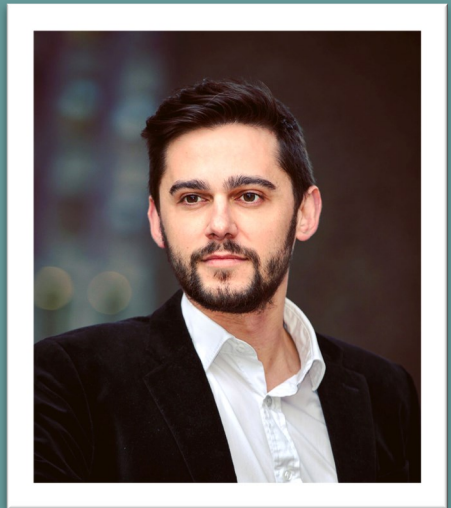
The economics of a weekend such as From Darkness into Light do not work without additional donations from people such as yourselves. The budget below for our event shows that, without donations, ticket prices would need to be of the order of £150, an amount that would be well outside our aims of providing accessible chamber operas to the general public, and which would also be economically unattractive as audience numbers would be much reduced.

Our pricing policy is therefore to set an acceptable price that is planned to maximise the ticket revenue and seek donations to cover the balance. If sufficient donations are forthcoming, then the event goes ahead. It is Cameratina's preference that this funding is seen as a mutual endeavour with each donor contributing the same. This allows all donors an equal say in shaping the event – albeit that, for purely practical reasons, this influence cannot reshape the basic proposals around which this particular prospectus is framed.

Donors are nonetheless encouraged to provide as much feedback and as many suggestions, both musical and social, for future weekends as possible. We will look to do this explicitly after this coming April's event.



Victoria Armillotta (Giorgetta)



Felix Kemp (Michele)

What does this mean in practice?

For our April 2024 weekend, our total outgo is expected to be of the order of £18900, which includes a £500 margin. With ticket sales and other income budgeted to be £6400 this leaves around £12500 to raise, which, after allowing for Gift Aid, implies that we require 20 subscribers to commit to a maximum donation of £500 in order that event goes ahead. (For higher rate taxpayers, the net impact after claiming Gift Aid would be £375).

To re-emphasise the point, this donation goes to Cameratina Limited and is solely to support the costs associated with the musical performances. It does not cover any costs of accommodation, food or drink during the weekend, nor does it secure any tickets as the cost of tickets does not attract Gift Aid.

As noted above, this budget includes about a £500 contingency margin, so it is hoped that the final contribution would be somewhat smaller in practice. Similarly, if we attract more than 20 subscribers, the final contribution will reduce considerably.

Further detail on the budget is shown below. There is a detailed spreadsheet behind this summary, which we are happy to share with potential donors on request.

	Subscriptions	10,000
	Gift Aid	2,500
	Ticket Sales	5,800
	Other	600
	Income	18,900
	Performers	13,850
	Production	1,100
	Venue	750
	Other	650
	Cameratina Ltd fees and insurance	1,400
	Contingency	500
	Outgo	18,250
	Surplus	650

It is planned for there to be a small surplus after the event. The surplus will be held by Cameratina Limited to support future ventures.

It is envisaged that the £500 donation will be paid in two tranches. Presuming we do get the commitment of 20 donors, the first payment of £250 will be payable immediately the number of donors reaches 20. Donors committing to the venture after the first payment becomes due will be asked to donate £250 immediately once they commit.

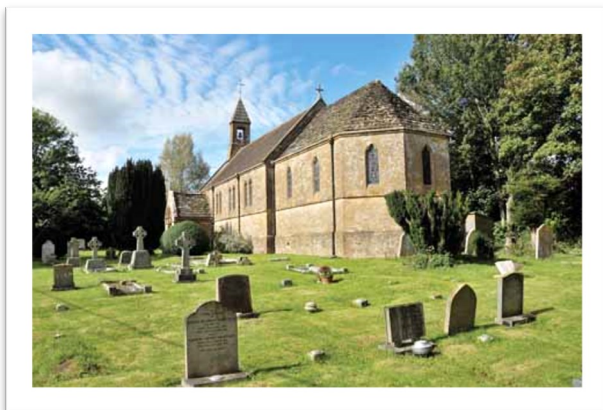
A second donation will be requested immediately after the event and, as explained above, the second payment will be no more than £250 and is hoped to be somewhat less.

It should be noted that, once paid, donations cannot be returned as this is one of the conditions of attracting Gift Aid. Unfortunately this is the position even if there are clear and good reasons why a donor can no longer attend the weekend.

Similarly, once a commitment to donate is given, by email or otherwise in writing, that commitment cannot be rescinded. Cameratina Limited will be making its own contractual commitments on the basis of the commitments given by donors and will not itself be able to rescind those contracts.

Donors may ask why their tickets are not included in the donation. There are two reasons for this:

- Donations are eligible for Gift Aid whereas tickets are not.
- In the event of non-attendance, donations cannot be refunded whereas the cost of tickets can be returned.



St Cuthbert's Church, Osborne

Key Assumptions

The significant assumption made in setting the budget is the number of tickets sold. In reaching the figures above, we have assumed that we will sell to the general public 35 tickets for the opera and 35 tickets to the Sunday afternoon recital.

In addition we have assumed we will also sell 30 tickets to donors, and their partners if applicable, for each of the opera, the Sunday afternoon recital and the Sunday morning workshop with Sir John. These assumptions should be conservative based on previous sales but each year brings new uncertainties.

Beyond the number of tickets sold, the other somewhat less important assumption relates to the costs to be incurred and in particular the level of inflation that the non-contractual costs suffer.

For the avoidance of doubt, if either the number of tickets sold or the costs vary adversely, subscribers are not committed to any amount beyond the £500 donation noted above. Any deficit beyond the contingency of £500 noted above falls back on Cameratina Limited.



The cast of *A dinner engagement*, Cameratina 23

Some more **background** on Cameratina

Cameratina Limited is a company limited by guarantee (No. 14462887). It is registered with the Charity Commission (no. 1203870) and HMRC and its Memorandum and Articles can be viewed online from Companies House. It was established in 2022. Its objectives are:

“For the public benefit, to advance public education and appreciation of the art of opera in particular but not exclusively by

Promoting public operatic performances, recitals and workshops; and

The provision of training and workshops to performers/artists, and particularly young performers/artists, to enable them to create works of artistic excellence.”

It has three directors, Elaine Fairless and Nigel Masters, who act as executives, and Alison Munro, who is Chair of the company. All the directors act on a voluntary basis.

The Artistic Director of Cameratina Limited is Susanna Stranders. Susanna is a pianist, conductor and répétiteur. She is on the music staff of The Royal Opera House and coaches at leading British conservatoires and international summer schools.



Susanna Stranders, Artistic Director, Cameratina

Cameratina’s website is at www.cameratina.org. The website carries more information on the previous events staged by Cameratina before it took on its current corporate structure. Cameratina Limited’s accountants are Hunts Accountants, Osborne, Sherborne, and its bank is NatWest Ltd.

“From Darkness into Light: The Many Shades of Puccini” offers a weekend of some of the very best voices in Britain to be enjoyed in relaxed and intimate surroundings. It provides much appreciated experience for emerging talent. As a donor, you make all this happen.

19th - 21st April 2024
Osborne, Dorset

Next steps

If you have already decided to donate to this latest venture from Cameratina Limited, please could you email, or otherwise put in writing your commitment to support us. Given timescales if you could give that commitment by 26th February, we would be most appreciative.

If, on the basis of what you have read above, you believe you share Cameratina’s goals and might like to become a donor but have further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Nigel Masters or Elaine Fairless. Their details are below.

Nigel - email (nigel.b.masters@btinternet.com) or by telephone (01935 817194)

Elaine – email (elaine@ed-financial.co.uk) or by telephone (07850 777630)

The logo for Cameratina is written in a white, elegant, cursive script. The word "Cameratina" is the primary focus, with a large, decorative flourish extending from the bottom of the letter 'a' that sweeps across the width of the text. Above the main text, the word "Opera" is written in a smaller, similar cursive font.