



THE ROYAL OPERA

Music Director JAKUB HRŮŠA

Director of Opera OLIVER MEARS

I puritani

OPERA IN THREE ACTS

MUSIC VINCENZO BELLINI

LIBRETTO CARLO PEPOLI

Conductor RICCARDO FRIZZA

Director RICHARD JONES

Set Designer HYEMI SHIN

Costume Designer NICKY GILLIBRAND

Lighting Designer ADAM SILVERMAN

Movement Director SARAH FAHIE

Video Designer SASHA BALMAZI-OWEN

ROYAL OPERA CHORUS

Chorus Director WILLIAM SPAULDING

ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Associate Concert Master PETER SCHULMEISTER

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ENDOWMENT FUND

Production generously supported by



ALVAREZ & MARSAL

Approximate Timings

The performance will last approximately 3 hours and 10 minutes, including one interval.

ACT I: 75 minutes

INTERVAL: 25 minutes

ACT II: 50 minutes

ACT III: 40 minutes

Language

Sung in Italian with English surtitles

Guidance

There are depictions of knife violence. Some of the characters in this production experience the challenges of mental health.

Cast

Elvira LISETTE OROPESA

Lord Arturo Talbo FRANCESCO DEMURO

Sir Riccardo Forth ANDRZEJ FIŁOŃCZYK

Sir Giorgio Valton ILDEBRANDO D'ARCANGELO

Enrichetta di Francia MARCELA RAHAL

Lord Gualtiero Valton BLAISE MALABA

Sir Bruno Robertson GIORGI GULIASHVILI*

*Jette Parker Artist

Extra Chorus

Sopranos JOANNE APPLEBY, JESSICA BROAD,

ELEANOR GARSIDE, SARAH JANE LEWIS,

STEPHANIE POROPAT, ERYL ROYLE

Mezzo-sopranos CATHY BELL, SOPHIE GOLDRICK,

SUSANNE HOLMES

Tenors MARK CHAUNDY, PHILIPPE DURRANT,

NATHAN VALE

Basses OSCAR CASTELLINO, MARK CAMPBELL-

GRIFFITHS, PETER WILLCOCK

Actors MICHAEL BARNES, LAUREN BRIDLE,

JORDAN CORK, ASHTON HALL, BRIDGET LAPPIN,

CAROLINE LOFTHOUSE, LUKE MURPHY,

ANTHONY PEREIRA, SEBASTIAN ROSE, JAY YULE

SATURDAY 27 JUNE 2026 AT 11.30AM

General Rehearsal

Synopsis

Plymouth, England. Following increasingly violent anti-Royalist sentiments within the Puritan community, King Charles I is executed. Soon after, civil war breaks out.

ACT I

Elvira, the daughter of Puritan commander Gualtiero (Lord Walter Valton), has fallen in love with Arturo (Lord Arthur Talbo), the son of a staunch Royalist. Though her father has planned for Elvira to marry Riccardo (Sir Richard Forth), a Puritan, he eventually goes back on his word, agreeing to his daughter's union with Arturo.

Citizens of Plymouth arrive for what they believe to be the wedding between Elvira and Riccardo, but it is actually that of Elvira and Arturo. Believing Elvira should be his property, Riccardo is deeply disappointed by Valton's revision.

Elvira is greeted by her uncle Giorgio, who informs her of her father's change of mind.

Arturo arrives to meet his bride and to declare his unyielding commitment. Within the walls of the fortress, he encounters a mysterious noblewoman being kept prisoner. She is about to be escorted to London for interrogation. Left alone with Arturo, she reveals her true identity: she is Enrichetta (Queen Henrietta), widow of King Charles I. Arturo's loyalty to the Stuart cause compels him to save her.

When he is alone with Enrichetta, Arturo tells her that Elvira's wedding veil will provide a disguise for her escape. As the two are leaving, Riccardo discovers them, but allows them to get away as he knows this will ruin Arturo. Arturo escorts Enrichetta out – the crowd believe they are the newly-wedded. Elvira enters, believes herself betrayed and becomes increasingly distressed.

INTERVAL

ACT II

Months later, Plymouth is under siege and Elvira has descended into madness. Riccardo reports that Arturo has been condemned to death by Parliament. Driven insane, Elvira sees Arturo everywhere and dreams of her wedding. Alone with Riccardo, Giorgio tries to convince him to save Arturo for the sake of Elvira's health. The two men strike a deal: if Arturo is found fighting for the Royalists, he will die, but if he is found off the battlefield, he will be saved and allowed to reunite with Elvira. Meanwhile, the civilian populace determine to go to war, and hunt down Arturo.

ACT III

Disturbed by Elvira's increasingly erratic state, Arturo returns to Plymouth. When he and Elvira reunite he is shocked by her mental deterioration. The two reaffirm their love and Arturo expresses regret at leaving.

Arturo reflects on his feelings of guilt over Elvira's madness. The community arrest Arturo and prepare him for his execution. Suddenly there is an announcement: The Royalists have been defeated, and Cromwell has called for amnesty for all offenders. Everyone celebrates victory and wishes Elvira and Arturo happiness.

Production

Music preparation RICHARD HETHERINGTON,
RICHARD FU*, ELIZABETH ROWE,
NICHOLAS ANSDELL-EVANS
Assistant Directors DEBORAH COHEN,
OLIVER PLATT
Fight Director BRET YOUNT
Language Coach EMMA ABBATE

*Jette Parker Artist

The Royal Opera

Patron HM THE KING
Music Director JAKUB HRŮŠA
Director of Opera OLIVER MEARS
Director of Casting PETER MARIO KATONA
Associate Director NETIA JONES
Administrative Director CORMAC SIMMS

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