

**PRESS RELEASE**

Friday 31 March 2023

**OAE announces six singers to join its Rising Stars of the Enlightenment scheme.**

- New cohort includes singers from UK, Germany and New Zealand
- Programme supports emerging artists with performance opportunities
- Rising Stars to feature in OAE's 2023/24 season

**The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment is today announcing a new intake of six singers joining its Rising Stars of the Enlightenment scheme. They are Madison Nonoa (soprano), Frances Gregory (mezzo-soprano), Rebecca Leggett (mezzo-soprano), Laurence Kilsby (tenor), Malachy Frame (baritone) and Florian Störtz (bass).**

Initiated in 2017, the two-year programme for emerging singers is part of the OAE's broader commitment to investing in the talents of the future. It supports artists in their professional development and includes numerous performance opportunities with the Orchestra as part of the programmes at its London residencies at the Southbank Centre and Kings Place, as well as around the UK and on international tours. The six singers were selected from over 100 applicants who responded to an open call and following an audition process that included video and live auditions.

Crispin Woodhead, CEO of the OAE, said:

"I am thrilled with our new cohort of Rising Stars who were selected from an impressive field of young and aspiring talent. We look forward to seeing and hearing them regularly on our concert platform in future seasons."

Tenor Mark Padmore, who is patron of the programme and part of the selection panel, added:

"Yip Harburg, the lyricist of The Wizard of Oz wrote 'words make you think a thought, music makes you feel a feeling, but a song makes you feel a thought'. The singers we have chosen for Rising Stars have the ability to communicate not just with beauty of sound but with intelligent engagement with text. This is what great singing is all about."

There will be opportunities to hear the Rising Stars as part of the OAE's soon-to-be-announced 2023/24 season at the Southbank Centre and its regular Bach, the Universe and Everything series at Kings Place.

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**Notes to editors:**

Rising Stars of the Enlightenment (2023 – 2025) short biographies:



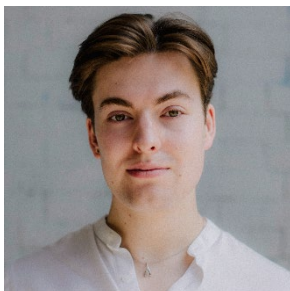
**Madison Nonoa** is a New Zealander of Sāmoan and British heritage. She is a soprano and a recent graduate of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama Opera Course. Since her graduation, Madison has been a Jerwood Young Artist at Glyndebourne Opera, a Britten-Pears Aldeburgh Festival Young Artist, a Samling Scholar and will shortly be making her Salzburg Festival debut as 'Amore' in *L'Orfeo* alongside Cecilia Bartoli. Madison has a great love for baroque and early classical repertoire; she was recently a soloist with Chineke! Voices in a recording of Vicente Lusitano's lost motets.



Mezzo-soprano **Frances Gregory** studied at the Royal Academy of Music as a Karaviotis scholar before joining the studio of the Opéra National de Lyon for 2020/21 and is currently based between London and Hannover. Last season she created the role of Laura in the world premiere of *Violet* by Tom Coult at the Aldeburgh Festival in association with the Royal Opera, and she has recently worked for English National Opera and Opera North. This summer she will sing La Messagiera and Proserpina in *L'Orfeo* for Longborough Festival Opera.



**Rebecca Leggett** is a graduate of Trinity Laban Conservatoire and the Royal College of Music. This year, she will join the 11th edition of the Jardin des Voix of Les Arts Florissants 2023/24 and tour with the ensemble in a new production of Purcell's *The Fairy Queen*. Rebecca's concert highlights last year include making her Wigmore Hall debut with Arcangelo and singing alto solos in Bach's St. John Passion with the OAE at Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam. As well as early music, Rebecca enjoys performing song and recently won the LSF British Art Song Competition 2022, with pianist George Ireland.



Currently a member of the Académie de l'Opéra National de Paris, **Laurence Kilsby** studied at the Royal College of Music and the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. His repertoire ranges from Vivaldi, Rameau, Bach and Handel to Poulenc, Britten and Sondheim. Laurence has made debuts at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Opera North, Nederlandse Reisoper, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, and the Concertgebouw. He collaborates frequently with Raphaël Pichon and Ensemble Pygmalion, and appears with pianist Malcolm Martineau on the album *The Call*. Engagements in 2023 include appearances at the Salzburg Festival and the BBC Proms, and his debut at the Opéra-Comique, Paris.

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Belfast-born baritone **Malachy Frame** was Northern Ireland Opera's 'Voice of 2016,' having won the competition at the company's annual *Festival of Voice*. Since then, operatic roles have included Figaro in both Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Aeneas in *Dido and Aeneas*, and roles in *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan tutte*. He recently made his Wigmore Hall debut with the Gabrieli Consort, and his concert repertoire includes Britten, Orff, Brahms, Bach, Handel and Walton.

Highlights for the current season include appearances with Nevill Holt Opera, Orchestre Mozart Genève, Ulster Touring Opera, the Ulster Orchestra, tours with the Irish Baroque Orchestra and the Gabrieli Consort, as well as performing Schubert's *Winterreise*.



Having sung in the music scene around Trier Cathedral in Germany from a young age, bass **Florian Störtz** has nourished his passion for vocal music in studies at the Royal Academy of Music. Art song and baroque music now lie at the heart of his musical work; he is the winner of the 2023 International Handel Singing Competition and a 2022/23 Wigmore Hall French Song Exchange artist. His recording of Duruflé's Requiem with the Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge is published by Hyperion. As a trained physicist, Florian is passionate about the intersection of science and music.

The **Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** is renowned for its curious, challenging and trailblazing approach to making music. It performs music from the 17th to the early 20th Centuries on instruments or replicas and using techniques from the time the music was composed. It is a Resident Orchestra at London's Southbank Centre, an artistic associate at Kings Place, and regularly tours the UK and internationally. It works with a network of schools and music hubs to deliver its education programme across the UK with over 16,000 participants in 2021/22. In 2020 it became the first UK orchestra to be based in a school when it became resident at Acland Burghley School in Tufnell Park, North London... our office is literally in the playground. Website: [oae.co.uk](http://oae.co.uk)

The OAE's 2023/24 season at the Southbank Centre will be announced on 25 April.