

PRESS NOTES  
11 SEPTEMBER 2017



**Popup Opera presents**

## **HANSEL AND GRETEL**

**by Englebert Humperdinck**

As the opening to the Autumn 2017 season at the Vera Fletcher Hall, we are delighted to be welcoming for the first time the innovative touring company Popup Opera. The aim of the company is to broaden the appeal of opera by challenging the way in which it is performed, taking it to unusual venues and making it intimate and engaging. We are thrilled to have been included in their Autumn touring schedule for Hansel and Gretel and are hoping that our regular opera lovers will be joined by some who are new to the form.

Formed in 2011 by Clementine Lovell, the company has performed a number of acclaimed productions including *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* ("sheer exuberance ... hugely recommended" *Daily Express* and *Il Capuleti e I Montecchi* ("A rich riot of violent, straightforward passion and beautiful noise" *The Times*). The company of young professional rising stars of opera have also performed on BBC Radio 3 and were the fictional Magic Opera Company in Radio 4's *The Archers*.

Magical and dark, this is perhaps the most popular fairy tale of them all. Brother and sister, Hansel and Gretel are drawn into the idyllic yet dangerous world of the forest, where they encounter the Sandman, the Dew Fairy, and, most frightening of all, the Witch. In the dizzying excitement of the Witch's Ride and the serene beauty of the children's evening prayer, Humperdinck's music magically evokes the contrasting worlds of the story. A story that will enchant and thrill, a wintry delight.

The opera is sung in German Sung in German with captions in English. The running time is just under 2 hours including a 25 minute interval.

We are continuing to offer free seats to young persons of 16 and under, made possible by the on going support of the R C Sherriff Trust. [www.popupopera.co.uk](http://www.popupopera.co.uk)

**DATE: Saturday 14th October 2017**

**TIME: 7.30 pm**

**VENUE INFORMATION:** Vera Fletcher Hall, 4 Embercourt Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0LQ

**TICKETS: £18. (FREE to 16 years and under)**

**BOX OFFICE:** Online at [www.verafletcherhall.co.uk](http://www.verafletcherhall.co.uk) or by phone 08456 528529

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