



ROYAL  
OPERA  
HOUSE

# RIGOLETTO

Giuseppe Verdi | Opera in three acts  
Sung in Italian | Running time: 2 hours 13 minutes (excluding intervals)

**LIVE CINEMA RELAY TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2012**

In *Rigoletto*, Verdi charts the fate of his larger-than-life characters – the tormented jester trying to avenge himself on his heartless playboy employer the Duke of Mantua, who has carelessly seduced Rigoletto's innocent daughter Gilda – in music of immense theatrical punch and instant memorability. Based on Victor Hugo's controversial play, *Le Roi s'amuse*, Verdi's 1851 tragedy caused one of his many rows with the censors before its Venetian premiere. Following a few minor compromises, the work triumphed locally, then internationally. The score's most celebrated highlights – the Duke's 'Questa o quella' and 'La donna e mobile', Gilda's 'Caro nome', and the famous quartet (which Hugo believed actually improved on his play at that point in the action) – are among the best known set-pieces in all opera. First seen in 2001, David McVicar's production teems with life and colour and, with Tanya McCallin's period costumes and Michael Vale's starkly effective sets, it provides an ideal frame for Verdi's exploration of love, emotional betrayal and the darkest revenge.

Rigoletto  
Gilda  
Duke of Mantua  
Matteo Borsa  
Count Ceprano  
Countess Ceprano

**Dimitri Platanias**  
**Ekaterina Siurina**  
**Vittorio Grigolo**  
**Pablo Bensch**  
**Jihoon Kim**  
**Susana Gaspar**

Marullo  
Count Monterone  
Giovanna  
Page  
Court Usher  
Maddalena

**ZhengZhong Zhou**  
**Gianfranco Montesor**  
**Elizabeth Sikora**  
**Andrea Hazell**  
**Nigel Cliffe**  
**Christine Rice**

Royal Opera Chorus  
Orchestra of the Royal Opera House

Conductor  
Stage Director

**John Eliot Gardiner**  
**David McVicar**

Set design  
Costume designs

**Michael Vale**  
**Tanya McCallin**



In association with

**Bank of America**  
**Merrill Lynch**

All information contained within this sales sheet is private and confidential, and is subject to change. No images may be used or reproduced without explicit permission from Opus Arte.