



Westminster Opera Co.
Emerging artists

Nurturing the opera talent of tomorrow

Key WOCO facts

Providing inspirational mentoring for the opera talent of the future and an enchanting experience for opera audiences in the UK and France

1. About us

Westminster Opera Co. was founded in 2008 by Guy Hopkins. WOCO exists to provide a life-changing artists-in-residence programme for newly established singers, players and production team members in London and South West France with related cross-cultural exchange. WOCO productions have included:

- Acis and Galatea - 2009
- Così fan tutte - 2010
- Don Pasquale - 2011
- The Barber of Seville - 2012
- Dido and Aeneas – 2013
- Don Giovanni – 2014
- Gianni Schicchi – 2015
- L'Elisir d'Amore – 2016
- The Magic Flute – 2017
- La Traviata – 2018
- La Bohème – 2019

Our planned performance of Hansel und Gretel in 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19 – we are likely to reschedule this for summer 2021. Visit the [gallery](#) to relive some of WOCO's magical moments.

2. Why does WOCO perform at Château de Panloy?

The Château de Panloy is in Port d'Envaux in the Charente Maritime, South West France. It is 40 minutes in-land from La Rochelle and near the historic town of Saintes. It is a haven where singers, players and production team members can hone their craft with expert mentoring, away from the pressures of touring company life. It also happens to be an enchanting corner of France with views over the river Charente and a magical natural acoustic in which to perform open-air opera.

3. How does WOCO work?

Each year WOCO supports 20-25 young singers, players and production team members through inspirational mentoring from our professional team. These Emerging Artists have 2-3 weeks rehearsal time in London before transferring to Panloy to live and work in this historic château.

4. How many Emerging Artists have been supported?

For twelve years WOCO has supported over 200 Emerging Artists: singers, players, designers and production team members on the cusp of a professional career. The full list of alumni is available [here](#).

5. What does it cost?

Each production costs in the region of £20,000 depending on the size of cast, orchestra and number of performances. We have been fortunate enough to be supported by individual donors and private trusts and foundations to continue our work. Support has come from:



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- Independent Opera at Sadler's Well's
- The de Grailly family
- Tim and Maria Church
- Richard and Patricia Millett
- Our wonderful supporters on [Kickstarter](#)
- The following regional organisations in France



As well as in-kind support from:

- Jones La Fuente
- All those that accommodate Emerging Artists
- WOCO Trustees.

Trustees supply on a voluntary basis:

- Musical direction
- Mentoring for Emerging Artists
- Graphic design
- Fundraising activities
- Company catering during performance week in France
- EA accommodation

This amounts to in-kind support, on average, to the value of £25,000 in the course of one year.

To find out more about WOCO's work watch our [building an opera](#) film or [contact us](#).