

Antonio Salieri (1750-1825)

At the Venice Fair

La fiera di Venezia, 1772

UK première

libretto by Giovanni Gastone Boccherini
sung in a new English translation by Gilly French

in collaboration with 

The Deanery Garden

Bampton, Oxfordshire OX18 2LL
7.00 pm Friday 21 and Saturday 22 July

The Orangery Theatre

Westonbirt School,
near Tetbury, Gloucestershire GL8 8QG
5.00 pm Monday 28 August

St John's Smith Square

London SW1P 3HA
7.00 pm Wednesday 13 September

Singers

**Iúnó Connolly, Andrew Henley, Peter van Hulle,
Aaron Kendall, Ellen Mawhinney,
Rhodri Prys Jones, Joanna Songi**

conductor **Thomas Blunt**
director/designer **Jeremy Gray**

Orchestra of Bampton Classical Opera
(Bampton, Westonbirt)

CHROMA
(St John's Smith Square)

A bustling canal-side market, a rigged raffle, a philandering Duke with his resourceful floozy, and the romantic confusion of a masked ball - "see Venice and lie!" would be an apt subtitle for this boisterous and colourful comedy from 1772. *At the Venice Fair* is a delight from ebullient start to festive finale, and the music sparkles with melody and energy. Bampton is thrilled to present its fourth opera production by the remarkable Antonio Salieri, in his lifetime a far more successful composer than Mozart. This UK première production, sung in a new and appealing English translation, is an operatic event not to be missed, the highlight of Bampton Classical Opera's celebratory 30th season.

*Why all this tardiness, you gentle maskers?
Get on your party dress, let's sing and dance.
All's for the choosing, won't be refusing you,
time for carousing, give it a chance!*



Bampton Classical Opera enjoys a national reputation for its passionate and enlightened performances of little-known eighteenth-century opera. Working with some of the finest emerging young professional singers, Bampton always delights with its superb ensembles, entertaining productions and appealing translations.

At the Venice Fair offers a perfect entertainment for families and children and, with its glorious music and comic narrative sung in English, makes an ideal introduction to any who are unaccustomed to opera. Bampton Classical Opera encourages a relaxed atmosphere and at the Deanery Garden Bampton seating is not provided: **please bring garden chairs** and warm clothing. If wet, performances (semi-staged) will be in St Mary's Church. Picnics are welcome in the gardens before the performances at Bampton and in the long interval at Westonbirt. Excellent pre-paid picnics are available to order: details will be sent with tickets.

The Deanery at Bampton is a delightful small Cotswold manor-house with a charming garden, in a picturesque and welcoming village.

Westonbirt School is an imposing Victorian mansion with extensive Grade I-listed gardens.

St John's Smith Square is the most historic of London's concert halls and provides a magnificent Baroque period setting.

Free pre-performance talks by Jeremy Gray at all venues: details will be sent with tickets.

**"In modern comic opera
one sometimes has to wing it -
if it's too absurd to say it,
then sing it!"**

An **exhibition** of costumes, props and artefacts celebrating 30 years of Bampton Classical Opera at the **Bampton Community Archive**, Old Grammar School, Church View, Bampton OX18 2NE

13 June - 6 August, every day 10 - 4pm
(extended afternoon hours on performance days),
admission free. Accompanying book on sale.