

## Kepler's Trial

Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre

Thursday 9 November

**An evening of innovative, multi-media opera from award-winning composer Tim Watts, and directed by William Ashford, including a thought-provoking discussion of the work and its development, led by Dame Marina Warner.**

### Programme –

18.00 – Doors open, entrance via Secretariat Gate on Cromwell Road

18.30 – Panel discussion begins

19.25 – Panel discussion ends

19.25 – 20.15 – Interval drinks reception in Silver Galleries

20.10 – Auditorium available for audience to retake seats for performance

20.25 – Performance of *Kepler's Trial* to commence

21.45 – Performance of *Kepler's Trial* to end

### **Panel Discussion**

Ulinka Rublack, author of the groundbreaking *The Astronomer and the Witch* on which the opera was based, Tim Watts and Aura Satz will be joined by Dame Marina Warner and Simon Schaffer, Professor of History of Science at the University of Cambridge, who contributed to the opera's unique process of development.

### **Kepler's Trial**

"The music teems with energy and melody all the way through, occasionally incorporating glorious 'rebuilt' of seventeenth century music"

Judith Weir, composer & Master of the Queen's Music

Denounced by her neighbours as a witch, Katharina Kepler is plunged into a crazed and corrupt legal process in this compelling historical opera. Can her brilliant son, the famed astronomer, Johannes Kepler, save her from the stake? Or will Kepler's own imagination be turned against him?

This innovative piece of theatre brings Kepler's world to life through vivid evocations of 17<sup>th</sup>-century hymns and drinking songs, performed by The Gesualdo Six, alongside a colourful instrumental ensemble that includes the haunting sonorities of cornett and sackbut. Video sequences from internationally acclaimed artist, Aura Satz, reanimate museum artefacts in revelatory ways. Words recorded in courtroom transcripts 400 years ago reverberate once more on a different stage. And a voice from the margins of history –female, ageing, widowed, illiterate – is heard afresh, her tale retold.