

History of Opera



Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 October 2019

11.00 – 16.00

Course Leader: Daniel Snowman

Seminar Room 1, Sackler Centre, Level 1

Daniel Snowman invites us to look at opera from the perspective of the 'demand' as well as the 'supply', the consumption as well as the production: the opera houses, impresarios, monarchs, money makers, artists and audiences as well as the great works and the people who created them. This magnificent Grand Tour of the mind includes stopovers in Renaissance Italy, Louis XIV's Versailles, Handel's London, Mozart's Vienna, Verdi's Italy and Wagner's Germany and Gilded Age America. In the 20th century, opera survived two world wars to become a truly global art form.

The lectures will be richly illustrated, with both images and musical examples, and will touch on a range of compelling historical issues. How widely known would the operas of Handel or Mozart have been during their lifetimes? Why did Mozart remain poor but Verdi became rich? When and why did the prima donna get her fiery reputation? How did a supposedly 'elite' art take root in such self-consciously egalitarian societies as the USA and Australia? Does opera have a future – and what exactly do we mean by 'opera' anyway?

Programme

Saturday 12 October

10:30 - 11.00	Welcome and Registration
11.00 - 11.50	Introduction
11.50-12.00	Break
12.00 - 13.00	Monteverdi and the Birth of 'Opera' in the Italian Courts, in Venice – and across the Alps
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch Break (not provided)
14.00 – 15.00	Opera in Handel's London

15.00 - 16.00 Mozart and his World

Sunday 13 October

11.00 – 11:50 Napoleon and After

11.50 – 12:00 Break

12.00 – 13:00 Viva Verdi-and Wagner!

13.00 – 14:00 Lunch Break (not provided)

14.00 – 15.00 ‘Verismo’ and the world of Puccini

15.00 – 16:00 Opera Yesterday, Today-and Tomorrow

Daniel Snowman

Daniel is a social and cultural historian. He was a Lecturer at the University of Sussex, and went on to work at the BBC. Now a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Historical Research (U. of London), he has frequently lectured at the V&A. Daniel’s books include a study of the cultural impact of the ‘Hitler Emigrés’ and *The Gilded Stage: A Social History of Opera* (www.danielsnowman.org.uk)

****Programme is subject to change*