

Monday 22 June 2009

THE ROYAL OPERA

CHANGE OF CAST

IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA

Gioachino Rossini

4 July at 7pm / 7, 10, 13, 15* July at 7.30pm / 18 July at 12.30pm

Following doctor's orders for a period of vocal rest, British baritone **Simon Keenlyside** has regretfully withdrawn from the role of Figaro in all performances of *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the Royal Opera House in July.

The Royal Opera is delighted to announce that Italian baritone **Pietro Spagnoli** will now sing the role of Figaro in all performances. This will be his debut with The Royal Opera. He has previously sung the role of Figaro in Paris, Madrid, Florence, Trieste and most recently in Oviedo in December 2008. Other recent roles include Marcello (*La bohème*) at La Scala, Milan, Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*) and Count Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*) in Paris, Rodomonte (*Orlando Paladino*) in Berlin and Dandini (*La cenerentola*) for Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

The rest of the cast remains unchanged with **Juan Diego Flórez** as Count Almaviva on 4, 7, 10 and 15 July and **Colin Lee** singing the role on 13 and 18 July, **Joyce DiDonato** as Rosina, **Alessandro Corbelli** as Doctor Bartolo, **Ferruccio Furlanetto** as Don Basilio, **Changhan Lim** as Fiorello and **Jennifer Rhys-Davies** as Berta. **Antonio Pappano** conducts all performances, except the 18 July matinee which will be conducted by **Paul Wynne Griffiths**.

* **BP Summer Big Screens** - www.roh.org.uk/bpbigscreens

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