Date of Issue: Wednesday 21 October 2026, 10am

English National Opera presents a new production of Kaija Saariaho's Adriana Mater

A companion production to Tosca

Directed by Annilese Miskimmon & conducted by André de Ridder

28 November – 12 December 2026 at the London Coliseum



Under 21s can get free tickets to all ENO opera productions at every level of the theatre, and 21-35 year olds can get discounted tickets. Tickets for everyone begin at £25.

English National Opera's new production of Kaija Saariaho's *Adriana Mater* opens at the London Coliseum on 28 November and runs until 12 December 2026. With a libretto by Lebanese-French journalist and war correspondent, **Amin Maalouf**, ENO presents this production with a newly commissioned English translation by the composer's son, writer-director **Aleksi Barrière.** Powerful and rarely staged, this ENO premiere marks the first collaboration between Artistic Director **Annilese Miskimmon** and Music Director Designate **André de Ridder**.

Set in an unidentified European state during and after civil war, the production follows Adriana's son Yonas as he confronts the violent legacy of his family. In its gripping climax, Adriana urges him to find strength in mercy rather than murder, arguing that only by breaking a cycle of male violence can the family, and their country, begin to heal.

Under Miskimmon's direction, *Tosca* (opening 30 October) and *Adriana Mater* are presented as two thematically connected new productions, forming a prequel and sequel that explore art, war and resilience. Serving as a powerful counterpart to *Tosca*, *Adriana Mater* completes a compelling narrative journey that reflects a season centred on resistance, hope, resilience and what it means to be free.

For one day only, on Saturday 5 December 2026, audiences can embark on a unique operatic journey: a matinee performance of *Tosca* followed by an evening performance of *Adriana Mater*. This rare pairing offers the chance to experience both productions consecutively, creating a richly layered and unforgettable day of music and storytelling.

André de Ridder returns to conduct the Orchestra of ENO following his critically acclaimed five-star *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* in the 2025/26 Season, hailed by The Times for its 'terrific orchestral performance'. He now turns his attention to Kaija Saariaho's innovative score, which blends traditional orchestration with electronics to powerful dramatic effect. Joining him as Associate Conductor is **Aliisa Neige Barrière**, daughter of Kaija Saariaho, who takes the baton for the performances on 5 and 10 December.

Leading the cast is German mezzo-soprano and Royal Academy of Music graduate **Kristina Stanek** in the title role. Renowned for her compelling stage presence, Stanek is acclaimed for performances of striking intensity and emotional truth, captivating audiences across classic and contemporary repertoire. Tenor **Caspar Singh** performs the role of Yonas, Adriana's son, alongside Stanek. He returns to ENO following his acclaimed appearance in the title role of *Albert Herring* at both the London Coliseum and Lowry during the 2025/26 Season.

They will be joined by former Harewood Artist **Leigh Melrose**, baritone, as Tsargo. Melrose has carved out a formidable reputation for the performance of new works and dramatic 20th century repertoire and is a dynamic artist in both operas and concerts. **Lauren Fagan**, soprano, makes her company debut as Refka. She is a former Jette Parker Young Artist Programme graduate, and has since received international recognition for her performances.

The creative team is completed by Rosanna Vize as Set Designer, Evie Gurney as Costume Designer, Lee Curran as Lighting Designer, and **Imogen Knight** as Movement Director.

Adriana Mater opens at the London Coliseum between 28 November to 12 December for 7 performances.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

For more information or to request an interview, please contact:
Natasha Haddad, Senior Communications Manager, English National Opera - nhaddad@eno.org | +44 20 7845 9426

Adriana Mater
Composer: Kaija Saariaho
Librettist: Amin Maalouf
Director: Annilese Miskimmon
Conductor: André de Ridder

Performances:
London Coliseum
28 Nov, 1, 3, 5, 8*, 10 Dec at 19.00. 12 Dec at 14.00.
*British Sign Language (BSL) Interpreted Performance

Running Time: 2 hours 20 minutes (with one interval)
Performed in English with surtitles available.
Tickets start from £25 (including all fees).

Artwork [Password: 2627]: https://englishnationalopera.smugmug.com/ENOs-202627-Season-/202627-Season-Production-Artwork-

About English National Opera:
English National Opera (ENO) is one of the UK's leading opera companies, dedicated to creating extraordinary encounters with opera, on stage and beyond. Performing in English and presenting bold, imaginative productions in an inclusive environment, ENO brings together outstanding artists, musicians and creative teams to tell powerful stories to the widest possible audience.

ENO is a dual-centre opera company, presenting a season at the iconic London Coliseum every year alongside dynamic work in Greater Manchester as part of its pioneering partnership with the city-region. Across the country, ENO runs a wide-ranging programme of learning, participation, creative health and community engagement that supports emerging talent and opens opera to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Founded in 1931 as Sadlers Wells Opera, ENO has played a central role in the cultural life of the nation for more than 90 years.

English National Opera, creating opera without limits.

Find us on eno.org | Facebook | Instagram | LinkedIn | TikTok | X | YouTube