



Children's roles in Bristol Opera's production of Verdi's Macbeth, April 2025

Revised, 10th December 2024

Bristol Opera is seeking to cast children for the roles **Apparition 2**, **Apparition 3** and **Fleance** in a production of Verdi's Macbeth in April 2025. In the production, they appear as boys. The players do not necessarily have to be boys. The Apparitions are singing roles, for unbroken treble voices. The role of Fleance is silent and could be played by the same child as one of the Apparitions, or by each on alternate nights; or could be a third casting.

As **Apparition 2** and **Apparition 3**, they each appear for less than a minute in Act III but their singing of the second and third prophecies to Macbeth and their contribution to the drama is significant.

They will need to sing relatively strongly but only in the context of children's voices. It's appropriate that they should sound a little distant and immature, as compared to the trained voices of the cast as a whole.

The Apparitions sing on pages 228 and 230 of the score, a copy of which extract is being circulated with this notice.

As **Fleance**, there is a silent appearance for about 5 minutes in Act II, as his father Banquo sings an aria. At the end of the scene, Fleance successfully escapes a band of murderous thugs.

The performances are set for 7pm on **9th, 11th and 12th April 2025**, at **Redland Hall at Redmaids' School**. Fleance will appear at approx. 7.45pm and the apparitions will be singing at approx. 8.30pm each night.

Attendance is required at **all** of the following rehearsals: Sunday 6th April at 1.10pm for 30 minutes; Monday 7th April, evening, time TBC for 30 minutes; Tuesday 8th April, dress rehearsal, timings to match performance days.

Attendance is also required at rehearsal on **at least one** of the following occasions: Thursday 27th March, evening; Sunday 30th March afternoon; Thursday 3rd April, evening. In each case, timings will be confirmed and a 30-minute attendance will be sufficient. We'll need to arrange this so that both Apparitions can be present on the same occasion(s).

Additionally, we will find either one or two mutually convenient rehearsal dates earlier in the term, in February or March, for a first look. Ideally this will be a Thursday evening or a Sunday afternoon, to coincide with company rehearsals.

Bristol Opera has the relevant child protection policies and these are available for inspection on request. We ask that parents come with children to auditions and early rehearsals. In the performances and show week rehearsals, the company will arrange chaperoning.

We are asking for expressions of interest as soon as possible, with a view to holding auditions in the early evening of **Sunday 5th January 2025**. The provisional venue for auditions is Horfield Methodist Church. Please apply by **31st December 2024**.

The auditions will be relatively informal, with the children put at their ease and encouraged to perform the extract to the best of their ability. The producer, Felicity Green, the musical director, Robert Marson, and one other representative of the company will be hearing the auditions.

Please direct all enquiries about the auditions to MD Robert Marson, md@bristolopera.co.uk. For general enquiries about Bristol Opera, please contact the secretary Sue Tansey, secretary@bristolopera.co.uk.