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ARTIST MANAGEMENT



PRESS RELEASE

20 January 2025, London.

Philip Venables leaves Ricordi, launches Opera Edition Ltd. and announces new representation with OWL Artist Management to coincide with the premiere of his new opera *We Are The Lucky Ones* at Dutch National Opera.

Composer Philip Venables has announced today the launch of his own publishing imprint on 1 March 2025, Opera Edition Ltd, marking a new chapter in his career. Alongside this new publishing arrangement, Philip Venables will be represented by Oliver Clarke at OWL Artist Management for all promotion worldwide. Venables, previously published by G. Ricordi & Co. (Berlin) for the past seven years, will now publish all future works and many older pieces exclusively through Opera Edition Ltd, while Ricordi will continue to manage their catalogue of his works.

Venables' highly anticipated new opera, *We Are The Lucky Ones*, will have its world premiere on 14 March 2025 at the Dutch National Opera. This opera is a milestone for Venables as his first opera scored for full orchestra. The project also marks his first creative partnership with acclaimed playwright Nina Segal, and his fourth collaboration with stage director and librettist Ted Huffman, following the critically acclaimed and award winning previous operas *4.48 Psychosis*, *Denis & Katya* and the music-theatre work *The Faggots and their Friends Between Revolutions*.

We Are The Lucky Ones tells the story of a generation. It is based on interviews with more than seventy people in Western Europe who were born between 1940 and 1949. It is the story of people who started out with little, who experienced ever improving living standards and are now leaving behind a world where such growth is no longer sustainable. Their memories form a collective time capsule of the past eighty years, told as one continuous and kaleidoscopic life story, infused with infectious dance rhythms, echoes of big band and old Hollywood film scores. Following individual experiences and societal changes over the decades, the opera raises crucial questions about the relationship between the private and the political, the impact of our choices and what truly matters in the end.

Oliver Clarke said:

"I have long admired Philip Venables' work, and I am thrilled to announce our collaboration. Philip has a remarkable and proven ability to unite and engage audiences, transforming seemingly incidental or intimate moments into breathtaking musical experiences. His work represents a very exciting future for classical music."

Philip Venables said:

"I'm thrilled to start a new adventure by setting up Opera Edition and collaborating with Oliver Clarke at OWL Artist Management. As I transition from chamber work to large-scale opera, and having decided to move away from a traditional publishing arrangement, I am hugely excited by the possibility of a new publishing and promotion model to facilitate the bespoke music theatre projects that I want to make. I know that Oliver shares that vision and is eager to help make it a reality; I'm absolutely delighted to be working with him."

Background Notes:

Philip Venables' works have been commissioned and performed by leading institutions worldwide, including the Royal Opera, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Dutch National Opera, Semperoper Dresden, Theater an der Wien, Opera Philadelphia, Opéra Orchestre National Montpellier Occitanie, Manchester International Festival, Holland Festival, Bregenzer Festspiele, Ruhrtriennale, Staatsoper Hannover, Prototype Festival, as well as prestigious orchestras such as the BBC Philharmonic, BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Wigmore Hall and the London Sinfonietta.

His critically acclaimed opera catalogue includes:

- *4.48 Psychosis* – Premiered production at the Lyric Theatre Hammersmith by the Royal Opera, this adaptation of Sarah Kane's powerful play is a poignant exploration of depression, interweaving poetry, anger, and dark humor. It was the first operatic adaptation of Kane's work and garnered numerous accolades, including a UK Theatre Award for Achievement in Opera, an Olivier Award nomination, and a Royal Philharmonic Society Music Award for Large-Scale Composition.
- *Denis & Katya* – A haunting retelling of the tragic story of two Russian teenagers, this opera premiered at Opera Philadelphia and won the 2019 Fedora Generali Prize for Opera and the 2020 Ivor Novello Award. It is now among the most performed contemporary operas of the last decade.
- *The Faggots and Their Friends Between Revolutions* – Based on Larry Mitchell's queer fairy tale, this music theatre work debuted to rave reviews at the Manchester International Festival, and has since been performed at major venues including the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Bregenzer Festspiele, Ruhrtriennale, Southbank Centre, and the Holland Festival. The work was recently nominated for a 2024 Ivor Novello Award.

Venables resides in Berlin, studied at Cambridge University, the Royal Academy of Music, and the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

www.philipvenables.com

OWL Artist Management

Founded in Berlin in May 2014 by Oliver Clarke, OWL Artist Management has been based in London since 2022. Oliver personally manages all artists, and the agency has until now focussed on the representation of Singers and Stage Directors. In January 2025, we are excited to welcome composer Philip Venables to our roster.

Our roster features a dynamic mix of established artists, including Véronique Gens, Sally Matthews, and Jacques Imbrailo, alongside emerging talents such as Yaritza Véliz, Sam Carl and Vuvu Mpofo.

www.owlartistmanagement.co.uk