

## English National Ballet today announces promotions and new joiners for the 2023/2024 season.

**Aaron S. Watkin** Artistic Director Designate of English National Ballet has today announced promotions within the Company and new joiners for the 2023/2024 season.

### Promotions

The following promotions have been made in the Company.

**Aitor Arrieta** and **Emma Hawes** have been promoted to Lead Principal.

**Julia Conway** is promoted to First Soloist.

**Lorenzo Trossello** is promoted to Soloist.

**Ivana Bueno**, **Henry Dowden**, **Noam Durand**, **Rentaro Nakaaki** and **Victor Prigent** are promoted to Junior Soloist.

**Alice Bellini**, **Georgia Bould**, **Eireen Evrard**, **Giorgio Garrett**, **Minju Kang**, **Adriana Lizardi** and **Eric Snyder** are promoted to First Artist.

**Breanna Foad** is promoted to 8<sup>th</sup> Year Artist of the Company.

### Joiners

Currently with Semperoper Ballett Dresden, Principal **Sangeun Lee** and First Soloist **Gareth Haw** join English National Ballet this week as Lead Principal and First Soloist respectively.

Also joining from Semperoper Ballett Dresden is **Anna Nevzorova** alongside Ukrainian dancer and former Coryphée of the Mariinsky Ballet **Vsevolod Maievskiy**, as Junior Soloists at the start of the season.

From Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre, **Edvinas Jakonis** joins as First Artist.

Making a welcome return to English National Ballet as Guest Artist is former Principal, **Lauretta Summerscales**, who will perform with the Company in *Nutcracker* at the London Coliseum this winter and *Swan Lake in-the-round* at the Royal Albert Hall in June. Lauretta is currently Principal Dancer with Bavarian State Ballet in Munich.

Joining the ballet staff team as Ballet Master is **Carmen Piqueras** from Birmingham Royal Ballet. As previously announced **Cynthia Harvey**, joins as Associate Guest Repetiteur working across the season, and **Alessandra Ferri** and **Alejandro Parente** join as Guest Repetiteurs.

Joining as Creative Director of ENBYouthCo is dance artist **Carolyn Bolton**, currently lecturer at London Contemporary Dance School and ballet instructor for Trinity Laban's Centre for Advanced Training.

### Leavers

As previously announced, after nine years with the Company, First Artist **Sarah Kundi** leaves to take up a position at The Royal Ballet School.

Also leaving at the end of the season are Artists of the Company **Paige Bestington**, **Noah Benzie-Drayton**, **Poppy Frankel**, **Lulu Toner**, **Daisy Wales**, and **Oscar Ward**.

Soloist **Rina Kanehara** and Artists of the Company **Amber Hunt**, **Jade Longley** and **Alejandro Moreno** left the Company mid-season.

Ballet Mistress **Anu Sistonen** also leaves the Company at the end of the season.

### **English National Ballet's Board of Trustees**

English National Ballet today announces that Sir Roger Carr will step down as Chair by the end of 2023. Sir Roger joined as Chair of the Board of Trustees in 2018, succeeding the late Justin Bickle. The search for a new Chair is underway and the Company expects to announce Sir Roger's successor later this year.

**Sir Roger commented:** *"It has been a great privilege to serve as Chair of English National Ballet's Board of Trustees for the past five years. I am proud to have overseen the Company's move into its world class, purpose-built facilities in Canning Town, the refreshment of a strong board, and the successful navigation of the impact of the pandemic. As I near the end of my second term and English National Ballet enters a new chapter with the arrival of a new artistic director, I felt the time was right for the Executive team to build a long-term future in partnership with a new Chair, and collectively realise Aaron's artistic vision for the Company. Against this background I look forward to seeing this remarkable and talented company flourish long into the future."*

In June 2023 English National Ballet welcomed **Sanaz Amidi** and **Sandra Honess** to its Board of Trustees. With a portfolio career in both public and private sectors, Sanaz is Chief Executive of Rosetta Arts and Chair of Creative Newham and Sandra is Head of Legal at the British Council.

English National Ballet's 2023/2024 season, the first programmed by new Artistic Director **Aaron S. Watkin**, begins with **Our Voices**, a new triple bill showcasing the vast possibilities of ballet, at Sadler's Wells in September followed by a UK tour of Akram Khan's **Giselle** and the **Nutcracker**.

- Ends -

For further information, please contact Robert James, Communications Consultant at English National Ballet on [robert.james@ballet.org.uk](mailto:robert.james@ballet.org.uk) or 07716258938