

## ***Faust* - Cast Change**

(Charles-François Gounod)

4 | 7 | 11 | 14 | 17 | 22 | 25 April

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to you because I wanted you to hear directly from me that Anna Netrebko has regretfully withdrawn from the role of Marguerite in *Faust* with The Royal Opera in April 2014. This was to have been her debut in the role.

**Anna Netrebko** has asked us to forward the following: 'I am so sorry to have to withdraw from the role of Marguerite in *Faust*. After much consideration and intensive preparation, I have come to the conclusion that the role is not right for me. I had been very much looking forward to making my debut in this role at the Royal Opera House and following it with further performances in Vienna and Baden-Baden. Unfortunately, I must now withdraw from all these productions. I am very sad to be disappointing my fans in London, Vienna and Baden-Baden and hope they will understand the difficult decision that I have had to make. However, I am very much looking forward to returning to The Royal Opera to perform with the Company again in 2015.'

We are working very hard to secure a good replacement for Anna Netrebko in this important part, and as soon as we know who will be replacing her, we will of course be back in touch.

In the meantime, I am still extremely excited about the rest of the cast for these performances of David McVicar's spectacular production: Joseph Calleja sings the title role, with Bryn Terfel as Méphistophélès, while Simon Keenlyside is Valentin. The wonderful Italian conductor Maurizio Benini returns to the Royal Opera and conducts all performances.

Yours sincerely,



**Kasper Holten**  
Director of Opera