

Thursday 25 June 7pm Britten Studio

Dunedin Consort: In the Belly of the Beast

Dunedin Consort, Hera & Mahogany Opera:**Mariana Rodrigues** soprano**Carolyn Sampson** soprano**Liam Byrne** viola da gamba**Lynda Sayce** theorbo**Alice Earll** violin**Jennifer Fletcher** director**Ben Moon** lighting designer & projection artist**Ingrid Hu** scenography & costume design

(Jerwood opera designer)

Pre-performance talk: 6pm Britten Studio

Torja Banks, Jennifer Fletcher and Jon Jacob

30'

In the Belly of the Beast (2026)Three biblical cantatas by **Élisabeth Jacquet de la Guerre** (1665–1729)English libretto by **Torja Banks** after **Antoine Houdar de la Motte** (1672–1731)

I. Adam (1711) *To start with, God created all the Heavens and Earth.
On the sixth day He made a man...*

God creates man in his own image, and sets him down in the Garden of Eden, giving him dominion over everything around him. In Paradise, Adam can do whatever he pleases, as long as he always remains grateful and obedient to his Heavenly Father. The story is taken from the Book of Genesis.

II. Jonah (1708) *Look here! Somebody travelling in search of safety
Flees, and takes to a boat...*

A man tries to run away from the fate God has assigned him, and is caught in a storm so overwhelming that creation itself seems about to unravel. Worse, the people he encounters are more than happy to throw him overboard to save themselves. The only refuge to be found is down, into the sea. The story is taken from the Book of Jonah.

III. Jephthah (1711) *With garlands now the soldiers crown!
With joyful dances bring them home!*

A people eager for war turn to a mighty warrior to lead them, and with God on his side, Jephthah achieves a great victory over their enemies to the East. But when he returns from battle, the violence he has embraced comes with him, into his home and family. The story is taken from the Book of Judges.

A co-production from Hera, Mahogany Opera and
Dunedin Consort**Duration: approx 60'**
no intervalWith thanks to
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