

## Donald Trumpet Talks Opera



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With the unexpected departure of Kasper Holten as head of the Royal Opera, a power vacuum has emerged. Currently working in the United States, Sinfini Music blogger Chris Gillett turned to someone with power very much on his mind for some advice: Presidential hopeful, Donald Trumpet.



### **I never had you pegged as an arts-lover, Mr Trumpet...**

Please, please, call me Donald. All my friends do. No, seriously, I'm a huge, huuuge lover of the arts. I have a collection of paintings by the Scotch painter, my good friend Jack Vettriano – they love me in Scotland – have you been to my golf course? Beautiful. Anyway, they cost me millions, millions, and they hang on the walls of my big apartment in the Trumpet Tower. Andrea Bocelli, beautiful guy, lovely singer, performed at my third wedding in the Trumpet Cathedral, and André Rieu – my God has that guy got good hair, and I would know – played at the reception in the Trumpet

Hotel. It was a classy, classy affair.

And artists, they love me too. They do, they really do, I'm not kidding.

### **So, who do you think should run Covent Garden?**

Well, me of course. I'm serious. I could do that, I could. Believe me.

### **And what would you do with the Royal Opera?**

I'd make massive changes, massive. First of all, I'd tear down that terrible old building, awful, and put up something classy, something that says we mean business. I mean, it's called Covent Garden but there isn't even a garden. So, I'd build one. A huge one. Yeah, on the roof. And under that, a luxury hotel – all in the best taste like my other buildings. Pink marble, great brass fittings that don't come from China, I guarantee. Under that some luxury apartments and then a beautiful new, state-of-the-art theater with at-

seat pizza delivery, my own vintage Trumpet wines on tap, a Trumpet Steakhouse... That kind of thing. Very classy. Very expensive, of course, of course, but I know people. Believe me. I know these guys. It's what they want. I promise.

### **And repertoire?**

I love opera. I really do. And it loves me, it really does. I mean, just look at all those operas... *Don Giovanni*, *Don Carlos*. They can't get enough of me! And let me tell you, seriously, I have a beautiful singing voice. I could sing any of those roles. Ask anyone.

But there are some operas... I think we have to ask ourselves 'Do we really want to see this?' and I don't think we do. I know I don't. I would ban them, I would, until we know what the hell is going on. I mean *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, *L'Italiana in Algeri*, *Otello*...there are characters in these that... well, I'm not going to say it, but somebody has to. They don't share our values, you know what I'm saying? I'm not sure we want to see that. I know I don't.

But let me tell you, I've seen all the operas. I've seen them all. I saw the very first night of *La bohème*. Yes, I was there, I saw it with my own eyes. It was widely reported.

### **What about casting?**

We have to be careful. We have to be very careful. I mean, we have all these foreign guys coming over – Mexicans, Russians – and we have to ask ourselves if this is what we really want, whether it's good for the Royal Trumpet Opera.

**But some of the world's greatest singers are Hispanic or Russian. Domingo, Villazón, Netrebko, Hvorostovsky, to name but a few...**

And these are great guys. I love them, I really do, and they love me.

### **And?**

I don't really want to go into it at this moment in time. I'm finding your line of questioning hostile. This interview is over. Clearly you don't know what you're talking about. It's no wonder you and your friends are going down the toilet. Is there something wrong with you? Are you sick? I'm going to be boycotting Sinfini and I suggest anyone reading does the same. They'll lose millions, believe me.

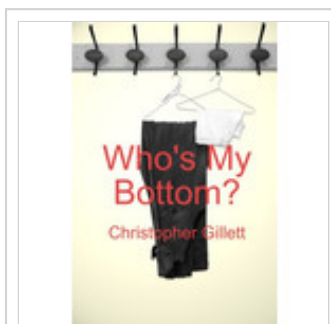
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