



Royal Opera House Publication 2000.



ROYAL OPERA HOUSE  
COVENT GARDEN

## Artistry & Imagination

In an ever-changing society, it is through the interaction of individuals that a creative art form evolves into new areas of experience, whether in the professional arena or through the participation of its audience. Actively developing any art form enables us to explore the society in which we live and work, build on our heritage, enrich our lives and enhance our spiritual and mental health and, in the case of dance and song, our physical well-being too. The Royal Opera House pursues this through large-scale projects which have been specially created to undertake research into art forms, to explore the nature of collaboration and to gain fresh insights into creativity.

**Tango Nuevo** This versatile orchestral and dance-based project centres on *Quintet* by the Argentinian composer, Astor Piazzolla (1921-92), and is aimed at people of all ages, ability and experience. Ideal as a basis for exploring dance and composition, Piazzolla's music blends the tango with classical and jazz influences and uses a variety of unusual instruments to forge a style that challenges tradition and embraces the spirit of musical adventure. Using dance as its focus, *Tango Nuevo* introduces the art of choreography, the Orchestra, The Royal Ballet and Piazzolla's dazzling music to the public in a variety of ways. *Tango Nuevo* involves the Leader and the Principal Double Bass of the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, staff and artists of The Royal Ballet and choreographer, Cathy Marston, in a series of performances and open workshops held in educational, community and professional venues in London and the provinces.



**String of Pearls Millennium Festival** More than 50 of the nation's greatest institutions are granting unprecedented levels of access to their London buildings to thousands of visitors during 2000. This festival forms one of the biggest educational and cultural events ever to take place in Europe and involves large numbers of participants in a wide-ranging programme of activities reflecting the 'building blocks' of civilization. The Royal Opera House is involved in two projects associated with the River Thames.

**The Fleeting Opera** This ambitious project offers artists of the Royal Opera House an unusual and challenging performance space, the River Thames. Focussed on The Couper Collection - a new floating museum of art created by Thames-based contemporary artist and mariner, Max Couper - the Royal Opera House will produce a series of transitory performances from boats and barges for riverside audiences. These collaborative works will feature the unique ambiance and resonance of movement, light and sound transmitted over the medium of water.

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