

Christina Louise Johnston-Myachin (V01-06)

After leaving the College at 18, she was accepted with a scholarship for The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. During her time there she performed in numerous productions and concerts ranging from Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* to Verdi's *Requiem* and Bernstein's *Candide*.

She has participated in master classes with such renowned opera singers as Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Renée Fleming, Emma Kirby and Yvonne Kenny, and competed in various competitions including the International Mozart Competition, the International Antoin Dvorak Competition and the National Performing Arts Competition.

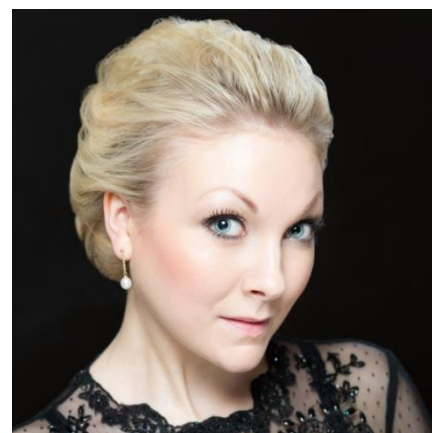
Meeting her future husband, **Slava Myachin (S01-06)**, meant a move to Prague to pursue her opera career with studies at the State Opera. It also meant that she had the opportunity to sing with conductors and orchestras all over Europe as well as Asia and South America. Being that modern rarity – a high coloratura soprano – meant Christina became very much in demand in European opera houses and concert halls. Her fresh, pure voice also meant she was in demand for both concerts of contemporary classical composers and popular concerts of film and show music.

In 2012 she made her operatic debut at The State Opera, Prague as *The Queen of the Night* in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* and *Adele* in Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*.

She has performed at Kazan Opera House, Russia as *Olympia* from *Les contes d'Hoffmann* by Offenbach, sung on tour in Europe as *The Queen of the Night* in *Die Zauberflöte* and *Olympia* from *Les contes d'Hoffmann*. She premiered in the production of Puccini's *Tosca* and has sung 3 seasons of *Zerlina* in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at The Estates Theatre, Prague.

In the Summer of 2015 and after a successful and busy summer of *Don Giovanni* in the opera house in Prague, she and the famous Boni Pueri, Czech Boy's Choir, were invited by the President of Czech Republic, Miloš Zeman and the Chinese government to sing in China for the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II. She had sung for the Chinese Vice President and delegates from China a couple of months earlier in Prague.

The concert for the President and the Chinese government was broadcast on Chinese television and the next day was in the Chinese newspapers.



In 2017 she starred as Mozart's pupil, *Katerina Cavalieri* in the Broadway staged production of *Amadeus*. She also released in September her debut CD "Blessing" which was recorded with The City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra. It consisted of a mix of highly popular opera arias plus some rarities that were totally suited to her high soprano voice.

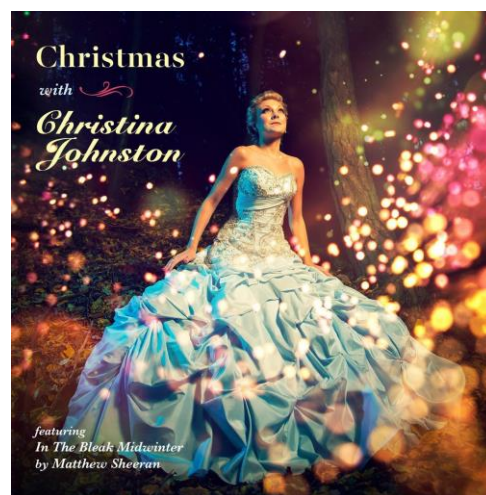
In 2017 she sung on Hollywood soundtrack for "Interlude in Prague".

She is pictured below singing Romeo and Juliet, Gounod and Bohuslav Martin with Prague Philharmonic orchestra under baton of Italian conductor Walter Attanasi



In 2018 she was nominated for a Classical Brit Award Sound of Poll Under 30. She also released a Christmas EP with Matthew Sheeran.

In 2019 she was chosen by José Carreras to join him on his Farewell Tour.



In 2021 she sang on Hollywood soundtrack for "Wonder Woman 1984". Later in that year she made her debut as a guest for **Russell Watson** for his summer outdoor concerts with the **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra** and sang again with him in 2022.

In February 2022 she was chosen to be the voice and Ambassador of Purple Poppy Appeal, celebrating the animals of the war. Her single, *A Million Tears* topped the Classical charts.

She is pictured below singing with Britain's Got Talent winner Colin Thackery.



Below are just a couple of press article on her career.



True Romance

Tom Huggins recently sat down with former pupil, the Soprano, Christina Johnston who now resides in the Czech Republic to talk about music and life at Framlingham College, how it shaped her career and how she met her future husband on her first day!

Its clear to say that you have become an immensely talented performer.

When did you first begin to sing?

I first started performing and singing as soon as I can remember. Apparently my mother told me that I used to put on performances for all my family and their friends even before I was at school! I began private singing lessons when I was nine and my music teacher told my parents that she believed I should be an opera singer, of course they laughed at the time.

I always wanted to be a singer and the passion for performing just grew and grew as I got older especially when I came to Framlingham College, director of music, Rob Goodrich and my singing teacher Pamela Vinten-Phipps really encouraged me and supported me in my passion for singing.

Tell us how you met your husband?

When I was in my last year of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, I

met with friends from school for New Year's Eve of 2009. I had not seen my Russian class mate, Viacheslav Myachin since we had finished at Framlingham College school. He lived in Prague at the time, as he had begun a furniture business there.

We fell in love very quickly and once I had finished at Guildhall we got married straight away. I already had an agent in London and was ready to begin my career in England, however I thought long and hard and believed I could begin my singing career anywhere in the world so why not Prague.

I auditioned for the National Opera and was accepted straight away as a young artist and it all went from there.

What are you up to at the moment?

Currently I have just finished in the studio, recording my new album with The City of Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, who have recorded the likes of: Placido Domingo, Jonas Kauffmann, Lesley Garrett, Sarah Brightman and many more. It is hoped to be released in Spring 2016.

I will then be touring again with the National Opera, in The Magic Flute and also the role of Olympia (the doll) in The Tales of Hoffmann. After all that I am hoping to come to England to promote my CD.

Music aside, what are your fondest memories of your time at Framlingham College?

I remember having a wonderful relationship with all the teachers. There was such a family bond between everyone.

Framlingham especially means so much as I met my lovely husband there.

We met on our first day in Year 9. He didn't know much English. He came to Victoria house to see his sister, he was so upset as he didn't understand anyone and she introduced me to him and we became good friends. So this is a very fond memory!

For us both it is really a special place as we have the same friends and memories, we remember it with great fondness.

Framlingham College will always have a very special place in my heart! ♦



Town boss drops hint over Cresswell's future - Back page

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Commissioner right to put our safety first

Control room merger battle has been won, now public bodies must unite for the greater good

COMMENT
Terry Hunt
Editor

Tim Passmore has done exactly the right thing for Suffolk by stopping the move of our police control room to Norfolk.

As the EADT and thousands of Suffolk people have been saying for weeks, it was never in our best interests to allow our 999 calls to the police to be answered in Wymondham, just a few miles from Norwich.

So, well done to Mr Passmore, our Police and Crime Commissioner, for sticking to his guns at a time when he was under enormous pressure to agree to the cost-cutting proposal. The safety of the people of Suffolk



must always be Mr Passmore's top priority and by stopping the control room merger he has stayed true to that.

However, money still needs to be saved, not just within Suffolk Police, but across all of our public bodies. We are talking many, many millions. This is where our publicly-funded organisations can work together for the greater good.

The cost to the taxpayer of all the public bodies in Suffolk is reputedly £5billion a year. Saving just five per cent of that enormous figure, across the board, would see a £250million reduction in costs.

It might sound too simplistic, even naive perhaps, but where's there a will, there's a way. Surely by working together, our public organisations can find the required savings, without losing front-line services or putting lives in danger.

Over the coming weeks, your EADT will highlight some of the areas where savings could be made.

■ Control room merger stopped - Pages 4 and 5



The Framlingham 'angel' heralded by a nation's president

Page 3

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'You looked like an angel'... what the Czech president said to Suffolk soprano



■ Main picture, former Framlingham College student Christina Johnston before her performance at the Eastern Partnership Prague summit. Inset left, Christina after she sang. Her next solo role will be on a Disney soundtrack.

Photos: CONTRIBUTED

A former Suffolk schoolgirl has sung for dozens of European leaders at a palace in Prague where the Czech president described her as an "angel".

President Milos Zeman reportedly told Christina Johnston she had the "most beautiful voice" after her televised performance at the Presidents of EU Summit Eastern Partnership concert last week.

The 26-year-old opera singer, who attended Framlingham College with fellow soprano Laura Wright, said it was an honour to perform for such

distinguished guests.

"It was fantastic to be able to sing in such an amazing building," she said.

"The president got up to present me with some flowers and said I had the most beautiful voice he had heard in a long time and that when I walked on to the stage I looked like an angel.

"It was very lovely to hear him say that and such an honour to receive such kind words."

The coloratura soprano now lives in the Czech capital with her Russian husband and fellow

Old Framlinghamian Zlacheslav Myachina.

Although she says Suffolk "still feels like home", Ms Johnston has relished the opportunities offered by her European setting. She has performed multiple roles with the Czech and Russian national theatres, was made the youngest Queen of the Night on an opera stage and is currently a soloist at the Prague State Opera.

"In Europe everyone enjoys classical music - I perform two concerts a week and the venues are packed, everyone gives you



a standing ovation - it's amazing," she said.

The former Woodbridge resident is now looking forward to her next solo role performing the soundtrack for Disney's *Aldabra*, due out next year.

Despite her achievements, Ms Johnston says her career is "only just beginning".

"I still feel that I have a long way to go - I just want to make other people happy and bring them beautiful music."

Below is an article in the East Anglia Daily Times on 17 February 2016

Shakespeare anniversary concert marked by Suffolk soprano



■ Christina Johnston performs at a concert to mark Shakespeare's 400th anniversary in the Czech Republic.

Picture: CONTRIBUTED

A former Framlingham College pupil has performed in a celebratory concert in the Czech Republic to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare.

Suffolk soprano Christina

Johnston performed alongside the Bohuslav Martin Philharmonic Orchestra at the concert last Thursday, which featured operatic versions of Shakespeare's love tragedies, including *Romeo and Juliet* and

Hamlet. Ms Johnston said: "It was an honour to be part of this concert, especially with my English heritage.

"The audience were thrilled and filled with excitement throughout the concert.

"It was wonderful to see how Shakespeare's works can inspire people even today."

Ms Johnston is set to return to Suffolk to perform at St Michael's Church, Framlingham, on April 8 and 9.