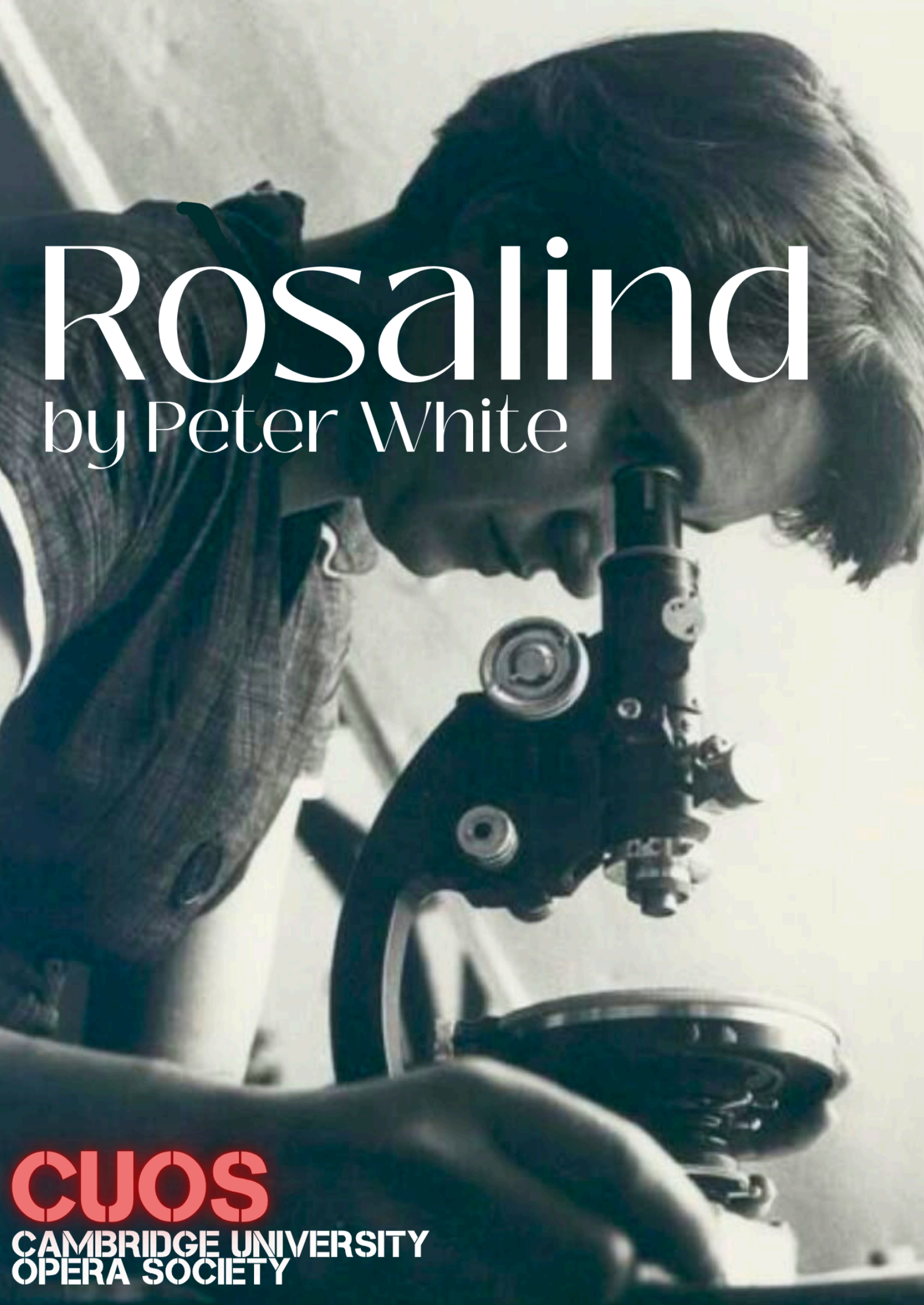

Rosalind

by Peter White

CUOS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY OPERA SOCIETY

CUOS is delighted to be staging the student premiere of **Peter Hugh White's *Rosalind*** as our Easter Term Show in 2026 (see below for more about the show and its music).

We are looking to appoint the following instruments for the orchestra:

- Flute
- Oboe
- Clarinet
- Bassoon
- Horn
- Piano
- Violins (2)
- Viola
- Cello
- Contrabass

Production week will be from **Tuesday 28th April–Saturday 2nd May**, with performances at 8pm on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd May in Trinity College Chapel.

Because the show is at the very start of Easter term, we also hope to arrange a couple of rehearsals with the band **towards the end of Lent term** (c. 12–27 March) if possible.

To express your interest, please email the musical director Thomas Simpson at ts975@cam.ac.uk **by 9pm on Sunday 8th March**, stating:

1. Your instrument(s)
2. A brief outline of your relevant musical experience (this might include: prior orchestral/pit band experience; any experience performing contemporary music; qualifications)
3. Your availability on the dates above

We look forward to hearing from you! Please don't hesitate to get in contact with Thomas if you have any questions.

Rosalind

Rosalind explores the life and work of physicist Rosalind Franklin, and her contribution to Watson and Crick's 1953 **discovery of the double helix structure of DNA**. Perhaps more importantly, it examines the difficulties of being a female scientist in the 1950s. You can learn more about the opera – and listen to a podcast recorded by the composer and librettist – here!

Rosalind will be premiered jointly by students in Cambridge (us!) and professionals in London, so there will be plenty of opportunities for cast and crew to network and collaborate. We're aiming to organise masterclasses with the London team, joint publicity, and a taster performance at the prestigious Francis Crick Institute. *Rosalind* has the potential to **attract**

national attention, and encourage those previously unexposed to opera to give it a go: we're hoping to reach as broad an audience as possible!

The score is in a terse, direct, contemporary style dominated by recitative. It's challenging music, but will doubtless be a rewarding project for all involved. We've been entrusted with the opera to demonstrate that students and amateur companies will be able to produce it to a high standard, and we're confident that we'll be able to do so!

We welcome applications from people of all ethnicities and backgrounds, particularly those who are under-represented in opera. **No prior experience in opera is required**: we encourage everyone with an interest to get involved!

A bit about Rosalind Franklin

Rosalind Franklin was born in 1920 to an affluent British Jewish family. She won a scholarship to study Natural Sciences at Newnham College, Cambridge, and graduated in 1941, six years before Cambridge began awarding BA degrees to women.

Franklin went on to undertake a research fellowship at Newnham, working across several laboratories before completing her PhD in 1945. Later, as a research fellow at King's College London, she captured the now-famous X-ray diffraction images that revealed crucial details of DNA's structure. These photographs, shared with James Watson and Francis Crick without Franklin's knowledge, were central to their identification of the double helix.

Franklin did not live to see the Nobel Prize awarded in 1962 to Watson, Crick, and Maurice Wilkins for the discovery of DNA's structure. Her name was not mentioned in their acceptance speech, and her pivotal contribution remained unacknowledged for many years. By staging this opera at Cambridge, where Franklin studied and worked, we hope to honour her legacy, and to pay tribute to the many women scientists whose groundbreaking work has too often gone unrecognised.