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**OPERNHAUS  
ZÜRICH**

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## **THE 2024/25 SEASON AT THE OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH THE END OF AN ERA**

The 2024/25 season is a special one: with it, Intendant and Artistic Director Andreas Homoki bids farewell to the Opernhaus Zürich. A thirteen-year era will come to an end. Everything is set for this farewell season, at the end of which Andreas Homoki and his team will have premiered a total of 123 new opera productions and 39 ballet productions. Some 2.5 million audience members joined us as guests through the years. The definition of music theater expanded to include much more than what is generally understood as opera. Alongside popular classics by Mozart, Verdi, Wagner, Puccini, Rossini and Strauss, the program over the past thirteen years has also featured operettas, musicals, independent Baroque projects, collaborations between ballet and opera, newly commissioned family operas and genre-defying experiments in contemporary music. This final 2024/25 season will follow their lead.

We will present four world premieres in the coming season, including the first choral opera by Swiss composer Beat Furrer. The program includes new productions led by Barrie Kosky, Dmitri Tcherniakov, Kirill Serebrennikov, Jetske Mijnsen and Tatjana Gürbaca.

Christian Gerhaher, Camilla Nylund, Michael Volle, Elena Stikhina, Tomasz Konieczny, Piotr Beczala, Vida Miknevičiūtė, Quinn Kelsey, Marina Rebeka and Julie Fuchs will all appear in successful productions from past seasons. Andreas Homoki will direct two of the nine new opera premieres. Ballet Director Cathy Marston will present a new full-length narrative ballet. Alongside a wide-ranging concert season, Gianandrea Noseda will lead both the final premiere of the season and the farewell celebrations of Andreas Homoki.

## OPERA SEASON 2024/25

Stage director Andreas Homoki will open and close the 2024/25 opera season. The Opernhaus will present «**ARIADNE AUF NAXOS**» by Richard Strauss, one of the most beautiful and profound operas, as its opening premiere. **Daniela Köhler** will debut in the title role. The cast is capably rounded out by **Brandon Jovanovich**, **Martin Gantner**, **Lauren Fagan** and the young Chinese soprano **Ziyi Dai**. Conductor **Markus Poschner** will once again demonstrate his skill in German repertoire. For his final production as the Artistic Director of the Opernhaus Zürich, Andreas Homoki selected something unexpected, and will stage Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy's oratorio «**ELIAS**» as a grand work of music theater. Appearing in the role of Elias is the great **Christian Gerhaher**. General Music Director **Gianandrea Noseda**, who possess a romantic sensitivity for Mendelssohn's music, is the best possible partner for the musical realization.

Under Homoki's directorship, the Opernhaus Zürich created a body of work that enjoys a distinguished international reputation, boasting numerous world premieres, commissioned works and performances of exceptional contemporary music theater explorations. The Opernhaus will do justice to this reputation once again for the 2024/25 season in the form of the world premiere of «**DAS GROSSE FEUER**» a commissioned work by **Beat Furrer**. This Swiss composer's first large choral opera takes us into the cosmos of indigenous people in South America, whose homes have been destroyed by colonization and Christian missionary work. **Tatjana Gürbaca** will direct for the stage. The composer himself will conduct the world premiere.

Russian stage director **Kirill Serebrennikov** will stage the absurd grotesque story of «**LEBEN MIT EINEM IDIOTEN**» by Alfred Schnittke as a dystopian, modern-day story of a couple in a toxic relationship. Schnittke's music is full of the potential for humor and irony, which will unfold with the Philharmonia Zürich under the musical direction of **Jonathan Stockhammer**.

**Dmitri Tcherniakov** returns to the Opernhaus Zürich for Erich Wolfgang Korngold's opera «**DIE TOTE STADT**», tackling this modern classic with psychological precision. Swiss conductor and rising star **Lorenzo Viotti** will unleash the colorful orchestral frenzy in Korngold's score. The demanding lead roles feature **Vida Miknevičiūte** and **Eric Cutler**.

One of the Opernhaus Zürich's programmatic lines is the cultivation of Baroque repertoire. Following excursions to the fringes of that repertoire over the last years, this season brings the Baroque classic «**AGRIPPINA**» by Georg Friedrich Händel. Polish countertenor and break dancer **Jakub**

# OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH

**Józef Orliński** will meet the great Italian mezzo-soprano **Anna Bonitatibus** in this political parable. This biting satire will be produced for the stage by Dutch stage director **Jetske Mijnsen**.

The Opernhaus Zürich regularly presents works by Giacomo Puccini and Giuseppe Verdi, the two greats of operatic literature. In Andreas Homoki's final season, popular classics from both are once again given new interpretations. Giuseppe Verdi adapted the historic story of an idle, politically weak ruler who is killed at a masked ball for «**UN BALLO IN MASCHERA**». **Charles Castronovo**, **Erika Grimaldi** and **George Petean** play the three protagonists in this love triangle. General Music Director **Gianandrea Noseda** and stage director **Adele Thomas** follow up on «Il trovatore» with another joint interpretation of a Verdi opera. **Barrie Kosky** returns to Zurich for Puccini's «**MANON LESCAUT**». At his side is conductor and Puccini expert **Marco Armiliato**. Soprano **Elena Stikhina**, who was recently celebrated as Salome at the Opernhaus Zürich, can be heard as Manon. Tenor **Saimir Pirgu** returns as her lover Des Grieux.

Of particular importance during the Homoki era was significantly expanding the offerings for children and young people. Above all, this included the annual production of a new children's and family opera on the main stage, featuring all the possibilities of theater magic, and at affordable prices. As suitable material for children aged 7 and over is a rarity in the existing opera repertoire, the Opernhaus Zürich commissioned numerous works. The 2024/25 season will bring two new works of music theater for children, with Jules Verne's «**IN 80 TAGEN UM DIE WELT**» on the big stage and Christine Nöstlinger's «**WIR PFEIFEN AUF DEN GURKENKÖNIG**» on the smaller stage.

One of the standards that Andreas Homoki has consistently held to during his tenure is that his house would pay the greatest possible artistic attention to revival productions. He insisted on maintaining the finest artistic standards in casting, while taking great care during staging and musical rehearsals, with the goal of guaranteeing first-rate performances night after night in Zurich. One of the ways to make sure that happens is to guarantee that rehearsal periods are long enough. This means audiences can look forward to a 2024/25 season full of enticing revivals, many of which have been created by Homoki himself and will now be presented once again. It is a season full of grand triumphs and great artists, many of whom have been closely associated with the Opernhaus and Andreas Homoki for many years, including «Der fliegende Holländer», which features **Camilla Nylund** and **Tomasz Konieczny**, supported by GMD **Gianandrea Noseda** at the podium of the Philharmonia Zürich. **Piotr Beczala** returns as Lohengrin. At his side are **Simone Schneider**, **Chris-**

**tof Fischesser**, **Martin Gantner** and **Anna Smirnova**. **Elena Stikhina** and **Kostas Smoriginas** return once again as Salome and Jochanaan. Strauss expert **Simone Young** returns to triumph in the orchestra pit. **Christian Gerhaher** will appear as Elias and as Simon Boccanegra. **Marina Rebeka** returns as Madama Butterfly. **Julie Fuchs** is Juliette in Gounod's «Roméo et Juliette». **Michael Volle** as Graf Danilo Danilowitsch will find himself wrapped around the finger of merry widow **Vida Miknevičiūtė**, and as in the first year of Homoki's directorship Hawaiian baritone **Quinn Kelsey** will thrill audiences as Rigoletto.

## BALLET SEASON 2024/25

The upcoming 2024/25 season marks the Ballett Zürich's second season under its new Ballet Director **Cathy Marston**. Marston will present the world premiere of «**CLARA**» as the first premiere of the season. This narrative ballet focuses on Clara Schumann, one of the most important pianists of her time. Composer **Philip Feeney** interweaves pieces not only by Clara, but also by Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms, in his ballet score. The German pianist **Ragna Schirmer**, a specialist in works by Clara Schumann, will join from the piano.

The internationally acclaimed **Kim Brandstrup** is set to work with the Ballett Zürich for the first time for «**OF LIGHT, WIND AND WATERS**». On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of author Hans Christian Andersen, the Danish choreographer will imaginatively combine various motifs from his compatriot's fairytales as he breathes new life into them. The production design is in the capable hands of the renowned stage and costume designer **Richard Hudson**.

The three-part «**COUNTERTIME**» production takes us into the world of the 1950s and 1960s in the USA. In «Mrs. Robinson» **Cathy Marston** tells this familiar tale solely from the perspective of the title figure – unlike the well-known Hollywood film «The Graduate». British composer and Olivier Award recipient **Terry Davies** created the score. Also on the program is **Kenneth Macmillan's** «Concerto» from 1966, a must-see modern classic. The evening is rounded out by Puerto Rican choreographer **Bryan Arias'** take on Leonard Bernstein's stunning «Symphonic Dances» from «West Side Story». The Philharmonia Zürich plays under the direction of **Robert Housart**.

The new **Junior Ballett** production bears the title of «**THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT**» und brings together three choreographers who make their homes in Zurich. Alongside the Ballet Director herself, Ihsan

Rustem and Lucas Valente, two artists from a brand new generation, will work with the young dancers.

And finally, Patrice Bart's «**GISELLE**», another key work in the ballet repertoire, returns to the Opernhaus stage. Three of the most important choreographic styles of our time will come together for a production of «**AUTOGRAPHS**» with works by Crystal Pite, William Forsythe and Wayne McGregor. The season will conclude with a revival of Cathy Marston's «**ATONEMENT**». **ZÜRICH TALKS DANCE**, the new joint platform founded in 2023 by the Ballett Zürich, the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), Tanz Akademie Zürich (TaZ) and Tanzhaus Zürich, will continue in the 2024/25 season.

## CONCERT SEASON 2024/25

**General Music Director Gianandrea Noseda** will be at the core of the Philharmonic Concerts of the 2023/24 season, conducting the Philharmonia Zürich himself for three of the seven concerts in the series. In particular, he will devote himself to the German symphonic repertoire, continuing his cycle with all of Johannes Brahms' symphonies. Exciting new conductors, including the exceptionally talented **Tarmo Peltokoski**, will make their debuts in Zurich. This young Finnish conductor is already causing an international sensation at the age of just 24. German-American conductor **Evan Rogister** is also on the cusp of a major career. Rogister is the chief conductor of the Washington National Opera and will likewise make his debut at the podium of the Philharmonia Zürich. A regular guest in Zurich is **Markus Poschner**, who will open the Philharmonic Concert series together with the young violinist **María Dueñas**.

For years, promoting young singers has been of particular importance for **Cecilia Bartoli**. This season, she'll reaffirm her commitment with a **charity concert** to support the International Opera Studio.

The Opernhaus' own special ensemble, the **Orchestra La Scintilla**, has a concert series featuring artists like Hans-Christoph Rademann, Dorothee Oberlinger and Lars Ulrik Mortensen, who will all make their debuts leading the ensemble. A unique collaboration is in store when the Orchestra La Scintilla, which performs on historical instruments, joins forces with the Zürcher Ensemble für zeitgenössische Musik for a concert.

## FAREWELL ANDREAS HOMOKI

Before Andreas Homoki takes his leave as Intendant of the Opernhaus Zürich after 13 years, we'll use the final moments in the season to celebrate alongside many familiar faces. The current General Music Director **Gianandrea Noseda** will lead a **CELEBRATORY EVENT IN HOMOKI'S HONOR** with the Philharmonia Zürich. Conductor and former General Music Director **Fabio Luisi** returns to Zurich for a **GALA CONCERT**, as he presents an evening of operatic excerpts with the Philharmonia Zürich and the Chor des Opernhauses, and with vocal stars **Camilla Nylund, Klaus Florian Vogt** and **Bryn Terfel**. For «**OPER FÜR ALLE**» the Opernhaus Zürich will transform the Sechseläutenplatz into an open-air stage and present Jacques Offenbach's fantastical opera «**Les Contes d'Hoffmann**» in a production by Andreas Homoki, this time as a part of his farewell celebrations. The second edition of «**KINO FÜR ALLE**» will take place on the evening before. Once again, it will be the best of open-air entertainment for warm summer evenings.

## SERVICE

For the 2024/25 season, a price adjustment of CHF 5 bis CHF 15 per seat will be made due to rising energy and material costs. Prices for the AMAG-Volksvorstellungen and for family operas will not be adjusted. Subscription sales begin Mid-April 2024. Individual advance ticket sales will begin on **29 June 2024** at the Opernhaus Billettkasse, online at [www.opernhaus.ch](http://www.opernhaus.ch) or via email: [tickets@opernhaus.ch](mailto:tickets@opernhaus.ch).

Wir danken unseren Partnern

