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# OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH

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## THE 2018/19 SEASON AT THE OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH

At today's press conference, Artistic Director Andreas Homoki, General Music Director Fabio Luisi, Ballet Director Christian Spuck, and departing Opera Director Sophie de Lint jointly presented the complete 2018/19 season at the Opernhaus Zürich.

The upcoming season brings 17 new productions: nine opera premieres, three ballet premieres on the main stage, two new productions in Winterthur, a concert performance on the main stage, a world premiere and a production for children on the studio stage.

Twenty opera and ballet productions will be brought back, and the Philharmonia Zürich and the La Scintilla will present nine concerts. Orchestra La Scintilla, the Philharmonia's historical performance practice ensemble celebrates its 20th anniversary. Cecilia Bartoli celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her first appearance at the Opernhaus. The coming season's program is rounded out by nine song recitals presented by world-class artists, an extensive season opening day, the Opera Ball, the «Ballett für alle» on the Sechseläutenplatz, ballet discussions, matinees, guided tours, and a variety of events for children, youths, and families.

### OPERA PREMIERES

The first premiere of the season is one of the most scandalous operas of the 20th century. Two giants of the opera world take the artistic lead in this new Zurich production. **Barrie Kosky** returns to the Opernhaus Zürich staging Franz Schrecker's *Die Gezeichneten*. Making his debut appearance at the podium with the Philharmonia Zürich is **Vladimir Jurowski**, the newly-appointed general music director of the Bavarian State Opera.

**Kirill Serebrennikov** is one of the most talked-about directors of our time. He debuts at the Opernhaus Zürich as stage director, set designer, and costume designer with Mozart's *Così fan tutte*. **Cornelius Meister**, last seen at the musical helm of a successful run of *Werther*, conducts.

In December 2018, Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* premieres in a new production in Zurich. At the center of this gruesome musical is Sweeney Todd, a serial-killer barber. Perfectly cut out to play the role of Todd is Welsh bass-baritone **Bryn Terfel**. His partner is Austrian mezzo **Angelika Kirchschrager**, debuting in the role of Mrs. Lovett. Zurich's Artistic Director **Andreas Homoki** will direct the new production.

The final production of the season is also in the hands of the Opernhaus' directors. **Andreas Homoki** will stage direct Verdi's *Nabucco* in June 2019, and **Fabio Luisi**, Zurich's GMD, will conduct. **Michael Volle** and **Catherine Naglestad** will make their role debuts as Nabucco and Abigail, respectively. Fabio Luisi will lead another new production earlier in the season, as Ligeti's *Le*

# OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH

**Grand Macabre** premieres in February 2019 (directed for the stage by **Tatjana Gürbaca**). English baritone Leigh Melrose returns to Zurich, following up on his success in *Der feurige Engel*.

After the wildly successful production of *Werther*, another opera by Jules Massenet will take the stage in April 2019. In **Manon** (SD: Floris Visser, MD: Marco Armiliato), rising star **Elsa Dreisig** debuts as Manon Lescaut, and **Piotr Beczala** returns to the stage of the Opernhaus. **Julie Fuchs** will also return to Zurich, as she makes her role debut as Donna Fiorilla in Rossini's **Il turco in Italia** in April 2019. Enrique Mazzola will conduct, and Jan Philipp Gloger will stage direct.

Jean-Philippe Rameau's first opera, **Hippolyte et Aricie**, is a rare find on the stages of international opera houses. The Opernhaus Zurich will present this French Baroque masterpiece in May 2019, in a production by **Jetske Mijnsen**. **Emmanuelle Haim** musically directs the Orchestra La Scintilla. Mélissa Petit and Cyrille Dubois both make role debuts as the title figures.

Introducing children and young people to music theater and ballet is one of the Opernhaus Zürich's most important goals. In the 2018/19 season, the Opernhaus will present a new production of the classic family opera **Hänsel und Gretel**. Canadian stage director **Robert Carsen**, last seen in Zurich directing *Pique Dame* and *Tosca*, will take the reins of this fantasy-filled fairytale. Conductor **Markus Poschner**, who last appeared in Zurich with *Fidelio* and *Der fliegende Holländer*, will musically direct the production, which will feature Anna Stéphany and Olga Kulchynska as the lost siblings.

And the 2018/19 season will also feature a coproduction with the Theater Winterthur. This time around, Zurich's International Opera Studio will tackle Rossini's comedy masterpiece **Il barbiere di Siviglia**. Stage director Johannes Pölgutter leads the production, and the Rossini specialist **Antonino Fogliani** conducts the Musikkollegium Winterthur.

## OPERA REVIVALS

Further highlights at the Opernhaus Zürich include numerous revivals with star-studded casts. Diana Damrau (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) and Anja Harteros (Donna Leonora in *La forza del destino*) both return to the Opernhaus Zürich. Appearing together onstage in *Elektra* are Evelyn Herlitzius (*Elektra*), Waltraud Meier (*Klytämnestra*), and Tamara Wilson (*Chrysothemis*). Maria Agresta returns as Norma, Stephen Gould is Tannhäuser and his Elisabeth is Lise Davidsen. Sabine Devielhe with a role debut as Sophie, Anna Stéphany (*Octavian*), Christof Fischesser (*Baron Ochs*) and Krassimira Stoyanova (*Feldmarschallin*) are appearing together in *Der Rosenkavalier*. Swiss soprano Regula Mühlemann is Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*.

Dagmar Manzel and Max Hopp will appear in Zurich in the Oscar Straus comedy *Eine Frau, die weiss, was sie will*, as Barrie Kosky's cult classic leaves Berlin for a one-night-only appearance.

In the coming season, Fabio Luisi will conduct *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Norma*, and *La forza del destino*. Nello Santi returns to Zurich to satiate his fans' devotion with what is guaranteed to be a thrilling performance of *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Simone Young (*Elektra*), Speranza Scappucci (*La bohème*), Axel Kober (*Tannhäuser*), Gustavo Gimeno (*Rigoletto*) offer new looks at repertory classics. Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* and *Le nozze di Figaro* are in the hands of Riccardo Minasi and Ottavio Dantone, who also leads Vivaldi's *La verità in cimento* in Zurich.

# OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH

## THE BALLETT ZÜRICH

The 2018/19 ballet season opens with a world premiere by Ballet Director **Christian Spuck**. After *Messa da Requiem*, Spuck turns his attention to another central work in music history, as he choreographs Hans Zender's adaptation of Franz Schubert's *Winterreise* song cycle. Swiss tenor and celebrated Schubert interpreter Mauro Peter will take the stage together with the dancers of the Ballett Zürich.

With *Bella Figura*, the Ballett Zürich pays tribute to **Jiří Kylián**. Kylián, one of modern ballet's most ardent champions, has had a career that spans more than 45 years, including serving as Artistic Director of the Nederlands Dans Theater. In addition to *Bella Figura* and *Stepping Stones*, his works *Sweet Dreams* and *Six Dances* will also celebrate their first Swiss performances. Following on the heels of his interpretation of *Petruschka*, **Marco Goecke** returns to the Opernhaus with *Nijinski*. Once again, he will examine the life of the exceptional Ballet Russes dancer, as he reworks his celebrated ballet. The production also marks the continuation of the Ballett Zürich's successful cooperation with Hanover's designated ballet director. And for the Junior Ballett, there are new *Kreationen* by **Filipe Portugal**, **Louis Stiens** and **Goyo Montero**, which will be premiered at the Theater Winterthur. Louis Stiens, the emerging choreographer and dancer from Stuttgart, and Goyo Montero, the charismatic Ballet Director from the Nuremberg State Theater will also appear for the first time in Zurich.

Audience-favorite *Emergence*, with choreographies by Crystal Pite and Sol León/Paul Lightfoot, returns to the stage, as does the ballet classic *Giselle* and Christian Spuck's *Nussknacker und Mausekönig*. Spuck's *Romeo und Julia*, his first choreography for the Ballett Zürich, rounds out the program of ballet revivals.

## PHILHARMONIA ZÜRICH AND ORCHESTRA LA SCINTILLA CONCERTS

The 2018/19 season brings two major anniversaries, and more than enough reason to celebrate both. The **Orchestra La Scintilla** ensemble was founded in June 1998 as an in-house specialist ensemble. Since then, it has been dedicated to historical performance practice, appearing in all Baroque-era repertoire and many of the Classical-era operatic productions at the Opernhaus Zürich. To mark its **20th anniversary**, violinist and conductor Riccardo Minasi will lead all of the Orchestra La Scintilla's concerts. The programs for the concerts in March, April, May, and June 2019 encompass works from Bach, Vivaldi, Corelli, and Pergolesi.

**Cecilia Bartoli** will celebrate her **30th anniversary at the Opernhaus Zürich** with a benefit concert in support of the young singers at the International Opera Studio on January 10, 2019. For this gala event, the celebrated mezzo-soprano will perform arias from Mozart, Rossini, and Handel productions from her past and present in Zurich. This one-time event is held in tandem with the revival of Handel's *Semele*, which will open on December 31, 2018, featuring Cecilia Bartoli in the title role and William Christie at the podium, directing La Scintilla.

The Philharmonia Zürich will perform in six concerts. The Italian pianist Beatrice Rana will join them for two concerts under the direction of General Music Director Fabio Luisi. The Philharmonia's further concerts feature repertoire ranging from Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert to Brahms, Strauss, Rachmaninoff, Shostakovich, and Bernstein. In addition to GMD Fabio Luisi, Daniele Rustioni and Robert Trevino will lead concerts, as well as British Bernstein specialist Wayne Marshall. And under the direction of Hans-Peter Achberger, the Ensemble Opera Nova will pay tribute to composer György Ligeti.

# OPERNHAUS ZÜRICH

## SONG RECITALS – CONCERT PERFORMANCES – WORLD PREMIERES – EXTRAS

Song recitals are among the most intimate ways to connect with a singer on stage. During the 2018/19 season, the Opernhaus Zürich is once again pleased to present recitals with opera's brightest stars, including Anja Harteros, Angelika Kirchschrager, Lise Davidsen, Anna Stéphany, Rolando Villazón, Thomas Hampson, Javier Camarena, and Pavol Breslik.

Last season, the Opernhaus began presenting concert performances of operas. In this season's concert performance, Pretty Yende, Kyle Ketelsen und Lawrence Brownlee take the concert stage in Bellini's *La sonnambula*. The 2018/19 season also sees more world premieres by Swiss composers: *Last Call* by Michael Pelzel will close out the season at the Opernhaus' Studio Stage in June 2019.

The Opernhaus will open its doors on September 22, 2018, with its traditional season opening day. As a part of the festivities, *Konrad, or the boy from the tin can*, a new music theater piece for children, will be premiered. The Opera Ball, one of Switzerland's most glamorous events, will take place on March 16, 2019. For the first time ever, the traditional summer open-air event «Oper für alle» will become «**Ballett für alle**». On June 22, 2019, Christian Spuck's choreography *Romeo und Julia*, one of the most famous love stories of all time, will be broadcast live to the Sechseläutenplatz.

## SERVICE

Subscription sales are now open. Advanced sales for individual performances will begin on June 9, 2018 at the Box Office, via email ([ticket@opernhaus.ch](mailto:ticket@opernhaus.ch)) or online at [www.opernhaus.ch](http://www.opernhaus.ch).

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