



OPERA

EUROPEAN OPERA DAYS

8-9 May 2010
'Crossing Bridges'

On 8 and 9 May, 97 opera houses across 21 countries jointly celebrated the European Opera Days 2010.

European opera houses (reaching out to South Africa!) had their doors wide open last weekend to celebrate the fourth edition of the European Opera Days. All in all, well in excess of 100,000 visitors added a taste of opera to their weekend.

Focusing on the theme 'Crossing Bridges', opera houses competed in imagination to offer their audiences a magical and entertaining day. Opera hit the city with open-air concerts (Bucharest, Madrid), recitals in metro stations (Barcelona), performances in shopping centres (Brno), around the town (Reykjavik, Leeds) and even on an actual bridge (Oslo)! From 6-month old babies (Inverness) to World War II veterans (Saint-Petersburg), through participative workshops and guided tours, existing and new audiences had the opportunity to experience opera from a new window.

Each year at the beginning of May, the European Opera Days are geared towards bringing opera closer to people and uncovering the incredible combination of emotion, heritage and talent housed in opera theatres. During one weekend, it sees opera companies across Europe unite to make a strong statement that opera is relevant to today's society and accessible to everyone.

The next edition of the European Opera Days will be celebrated on 7-8 May 2011 and focus on 'Creating opera for young audiences'.

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*The **European Opera Days** are a joint initiative of **Opera Europa**, the European organisation for professional opera companies and festivals, and **RESEO**, the European Network for Opera and Dance Education, in partnership with la Réunion des Opéras de France, Ópera XXI and the UK's National Opera Coordinating Committee.*



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