

PRESS PACK

30 April 2012



12-13 May 2012

Passion

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A joint initiative by OPERA EUROPA and RESEO



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12-13 May 2012
Passion

For the sixth year in a row, more than 80 opera companies in Europe and beyond will open their doors on 12 and 13 May 2012, the weekend closest to Europe Day. They will invite citizens of their towns and regions to discover the art of opera in all of its facets- and what happens 'behind the scenes'. From Lisbon to Moscow, from Belgrade to Gothenburg, the European Opera Days are a festive event for all, but also a gateway into the world of opera.

The European Opera Days, truly an event for all

Last years' European survey revealed that over 60 % are newcomers and are seizing the occasion to discover opera for the very first time. And two thirds are young people under 35 years of age. We are convinced that this encouraging development will continue to gain in momentum and attract even more young visitors this year.

At the programme for 2012 festivities: singing, make-up and costume workshops, stage lighting initiation workshops, rehearsals opened to the public, costumes sales, lotteries, performances involving the public, children's' choirs and open-air 'pop-up' performances. And even a sleepover is planned for 8-11 year olds – who will then wake up to the aroma of hot chocolate at the canteen with the opera stars!

Opera, more thrilling than ever

The heritage of the lyrical art is impressive, but the creation is truly alive. Various new opera see the light each year, confronting the public with a new contemporary art. The sign of success of these enterprises is their touring throughout the world. Traditional works are presented in new fresh angles to speak to today's public, not only to entertain them, but also to tell stories sending out universal messages. The renewal of the genre sends a positive message for culture, art and opera as key elements for holding a society together.

Browsing the European activities in a few clicks

For the first time, the local events will be united through Facebook on a page dedicated to the European Opera Days: pictures of the events will be posted during the day so that the visitors have a feeling of the magnitude of the event and discover what other companies are doing this week-end.

*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, the UK's National Opera Coordinating Committee and Ópera XXI in Spain..*

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Passion

We live in a time full of words. We use words to describe our world, but there are things words cannot grasp. Words have a tendency to pull us into the domain of the logic, of rationality - that is what they are best at.

But so much of life is not rational, not logic, and when we try to describe it with the use of words and logic, we fall short of understanding and expressing some of the most extreme and essential aspects of the human condition.

Music gives us a language for that. Gives us a language for "talking" about the irrational, about emotions, about passion. In opera we combine theatre - presenting us with characters and a story, but fast forwarding to the most extreme emotional situations - with this language of music.

When anybody asks me: "Why do they spend such a long time in opera, singing I love you, or I die now?" - I answer: "Because in opera, we spend time on what's really important in life."

Kasper Holten, Director of Opera at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden



European Opera Days Manifesto

Each year on the weekend closest to 9 May (Europe Day), opera houses in Europe and beyond open their doors to new and existing audiences to celebrate the art of opera and the talent of those who make it.

The European Opera Days celebrate opera as an art form. Their aim is to help bring opera into the mainstream of cultural practice and to enhance its appreciation in today's society.

Opera is the European art form *par excellence*, because it overcomes national and linguistic barriers through the universal language of music. Its core values and themes are central to European culture, which is part of our common identity. For this reason, the European Opera Days are celebrated on the weekend closest to **9 May, Europe Day**.

Opera today is alive and kicking. It explores unconventional spaces and forms, uses state-of-the-art technology and draws inspiration from the world in which we live today. It plays a major role in contemporary artistic and cultural life and contributes to the development of a **creative society**.

Opera reaches out to everyone. Europe needs a creative society in order to develop - just as opera needs the involvement of its audiences if it is itself to develop and remain an innovative art form, central to our lives. Access to opera should therefore be promoted for all European citizens.

Opera companies are invited to:

- organise free activities for existing and new audiences: creative workshops, guided tours, debates and lectures, open rehearsals, special performances or happenings
- design their activities around a specific annual theme
- include the European Opera Days logo on their communication tools and mention the European Opera Days as an umbrella initiative in their local events. Provide links to the dedicated website www.operadays.eu
- coordinate their action and communication with other participating opera companies in their country
- involve as many departments as possible within the company, celebrating the contributions of all to this art
- work with local associations in order to implant opera firmly in their social environments and attract new audiences

The European Opera Days support Culture Action Europe's ***we are more* campaign – act for culture in Europe**.

European Opera Days throughout Europe

78 participants in 23 countries

Belgium

Brussels, La Monnaie/De Munt
Brussels, Opera Mobile
Liège, Opéra Royal de Wallonie

Czech Republic

Brno, National Theatre Brno
Ostrava, National Moravian-Silesian Theatre
Prague, Prague National Theatre

Denmark

Aarhus, Den Jyske Opera

France

Aix-en-Provence, Festival d'Art Lyrique d'Aix-en-Provence
Aix-en-Provence, Grand Théâtre de Provence
Avignon, Opéra-Théâtre d'Avignon et des Pays de Vaucluse
Bordeaux, Opéra national de Bordeaux
Caen, Théâtre de Caen
Clermont-Ferrand, Centre Lyrique Clermont-Auvergne
Compiègne, Théâtre Impérial
Dijon, Opéra de Dijon
Lille, Opéra de Lille
Limoges, Théâtre-Opéra de Limoge
Lyon, Opéra national de Lyon
Massy, Opéra de Massy
Metz, Opéra-Théâtre de Metz Métropole
Montpellier, Opéra-Orchestre national de Montpellier
Nancy, Opéra national de Lorraine
Nice, Opéra de Nice
Orange, Chorégies d'Orange
Paris, Athénée Théâtre Louis-Jouvet
Paris, Opéra Comique
Paris, Opéra national de Paris
Paris, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées
Reims, Opéra de Reims
Rennes, Opéra de Rennes
Rouen, Opéra de Rouen Haute-Normandie
Saint-Denis de la Réunion, Théâtre Vollard
Saint-Etienne, Opéra-Théâtre de Saint-Etienne
Strasbourg, Opera National du Rhin

Toulon, Opéra de Toulon Provence Méditerranée
Toulouse, Théâtre du Capitole
Tours, Opéra de Tours

Germany

Düsseldorf, Deutsche Oper am Rhein
Essen, Aalto-Musictheater Essen
Karlsruhe, Badisches Staatstheater
Magdeburg, Theater Magdeburg

Greece

Athens, Greek National Opera

Iceland

Reykjavik, Icelandic Opera

Ireland

Dublin, Opera Theatre Company

Italy

Como, Teatro Sociale di Como
AsLiCo
Bologna, Teatro Comunale

Lithuania

Vilnius, Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre

Monaco (*en avant-première*)

Monte-Carlo, Opéra de Monte-Carlo

Netherlands

Amsterdam, De Nederlandse Opera
Maastricht, Opera Zuid
Rotterdam, Operadagen

Norway

Oslo, Den Norske Opera og Ballett

Poland

Nowy Sącz, Małopolskie Centrum Kultury SOKÓŁ
Warsaw, Polish National Opera

Portugal

Lisbon, Companhia de Ópera do Castelo

Romania

Bucharest, Bucharest National Opera

Russia

Astrakhan, Astrakhan State Music Theatre
Moscow, Moscow State Music Theatre for Children
Moscow, Bolshoi Theatre

Serbia

Belgrade, Madlenianum Opera and Theatre

South Africa

Cape Town, Cape Festival

Spain

Barcelona, Gran Teatre del Liceu
Madrid, Teatro de la Zarzuela
Madrid, Teatro Real
Oviedo, Fundación Opera Oviedo
Palma de Mallorc, Teatre Principal
Palma de Mallorc, Amics de l'Òpera del Teatre Principal
Pamplona, Asociación Gayarre de Amigos de la Ópera (AGAO)
Sevilla, Teatro de la Maestranza

Sweden

Göteborg, GöteborgsOperan

Switzerland

Genève, Grand Théâtre de Genève

Ukraine

L'viv, L'viv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre

United Kingdom

Cardiff, Welsh National Opera
Glasgow & Inverness, Scottish Opera
Leeds, Opera North
Lewes, Glyndebourne Festival
London, English National Opera
London, Royal Opera House
Warwick, English Touring Opera

European Opera Days throughout Europe



In 2012, the European Opera Days are celebrated for the first time in:

Russia

Astrakhan, Astrakhan State Music Theatre
Moscow, Bolshoi Theatre

Ukraine NATIONAL FIRST!

L'viv, L'viv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre

Activity Overview

Special performances for young audiences

Delivering the keys to children to approach the art form of opera is the culmination of the European Opera Days. Education about this artistic form, to all and from the younger age, the creation of a society where opera has a popular and firm place, are the fundamental pillars of the yearly event. Therefore most of the activities appeal to children. In Liège, Düsseldorf, Essen, Lisbon, in every corner of Europe, the aspiring artists and their families will be cherished on the week-end of 12 and 13 May: they will be called to participate to a theatre education programme, to learn the ability of the lyrical voice, to hear amusing stories with unexpected sonorities, to listen to new genres of opera combining story-telling with music. And London has designed a very exciting adventure for them: they are invited to a sleep-over in the opera house!

Operatic and musical introductions

Educating to the art form of opera often means giving the very first spoon to novices. The delicate task of introducing lyrical art to neophytes is to be contributed by the opera houses themselves during this discovery week-end: they usually offer pre-performance lectures as well as after-performance discussions. Opera houses may also trigger their devotees to share their love for opera: Maastricht for example will invite the members of their Friends' Association to scatter their passion for opera with their nearest and dearest. Other houses let experts speak about their own field of work like in Ostrava, where the Chief of Lighting will give a lecture about lighting.

Workshops

To imprint the day durably in their guests' memory, opera houses often invite them to get their hands dirty and work their hearts and souls out in activities giving an insight on what lies behind the performances. The call "try it out yourself!" will translate in different recreational activities: do it yourself musical instruments creation workshop (Brussels), costume, make-up, masks workshops, leading sometimes to a whole scene rehearsals (Essen). De Nederlandse Opera of Amsterdam adds a social touch by offering young participants from under-privileged areas of the city the chance to create a performance based on the opera *Il Turco in Italia* by Rossini, which will simultaneously be performed by the Nederlandse Opera.

Guided tours

The European Opera Days' main attraction is the access to secret places and the discovery of what happens behind the curtains. Opera houses are happy to respond to the public's curiosity by leading it in the different departments of an opera production. The tours range from simple guided tours in Magdeburg and open doors in the carpentry and costume shop in Essen, until personalized tours in Ostrava where opera devotees will give a very personal description of their working day in the opera house through the costume, mask and props department. In Maastricht, members of the Friends' Association of Opera Zuid are invited for a guided tour around the Parktheater Eindhoven.

Performances and open rehearsals

The immersion feels even more realistic and alive when there is actually something happening behind the curtains, throughout the discovery journey! In Amsterdam, the behind-the-scenes tours will make a loop to the rehearsal of *Il Turco in Italia*, meeting on the way the dramaturge and singer from the opera's cast. In Ostrava, visitors will be on the look-out for little bits of voice exercises of singers. In Maastricht, rehearsals of *Madame Butterfly* will pop-up on their way.

The performance itself is considered as the height of an uncovering day at the opera. The Days often reach their climax with final performances : from Premieres (Magdeburg will show *The Io Passion*, a chamber opera by Harrison Birtwistle, first production in German), and Recitals of competition's winners (Aslico's recital will feature the young winners of the 63rd edition of the Aslico Competition of Young Opera Singers in Europe 2012), to new kinds of arrangements (Liège will feature 'The nature in songs', a concert with special arrangement from the composer Line Adam, while Monte-Carlo Chorus will sing pop music with its *Crossover Chorus*). Amsterdam branches performances with two simultaneous performances based on *Il Turco in Italia*: the performance in the Nederlandse Opera will be doubled by an alternative performance of the same work made by young people from a disadvantaged area of Amsterdam.

Opera outside the walls

European Opera Days are a rare occasion to present opera 'outside the box': from outdoor performances, to performances in unexpected places, the houses show their creativity in coming across audiences less familiar with the opera. Passers-by will bump into open air mini-concerts and open air bars in Brussels. Ostrava will bring opera to night clubs with a daring fashion show. Dublin chose a more bucolic setting and will offer to nature lovers an outdoor promenade performance of Bach's *Coffee Cantata* in the exquisite Merrion Hotel Gardens.

Passion

The theme of the year will be highlighted in its many different dimensions, leaving room for each house's interpretation: passion for sweets, passion for learning music (Brussels), sharing the passion for opera...

And more...

The Days are more than an open-door day, and give the opportunity for special and daring experiences and projects: an opera trunk (Brussels), an experience in revolving the stage or in opening the curtain (Ostrava). Longer terms projects also fit in the line of the event, like Amsterdam's project Jong Rast, involving young people from different cultural backgrounds in the creation of a performance based on *Il Turco in Italia*. Everything in your imagination and beyond, to show how alive and kicking opera is today.

Programme across Europe

BELGIUM

Brussels – Opera Mobile

www.operamobile.be

Opera Mobile will organize on 12 May a family day of outdoor activities on Homère Goossens square, a public square in Uccle, Brussels. Open air mini-concerts of 15 to 20 minutes will be played every 30 minutes, with arias, duets, short scenes from opera under the annual theme of Passion (*Puccini, Verdi, Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti...*)

Kids won't be forgotten, with excerpts of *Hänsel und Gretel* revealing their passion for sweets. They will also enjoy an 'Opera trunk' (showing *Rusalka, La Cenerentola, Papageno, Carmen...*).

The day will be cheered up with violin, piano, singing, body percussion workshops for young and old, as well as a musical instrument creation workshop, and a little Opera Mobile Bar.

At night, their AperOpera will premiere the following: *due donne, due uomini, quattro voci, intrecci d'amore, passion brûlante, painless neurosis...*

Liège – Opéra Royal de Wallonie

www.operaliege.be

Opéra de Liège joins forces with other European opera houses and opens its doors to all on Sunday 13 March 2012 from 2pm. This year, they will give way to Passion.

Aspiring artists are honoured. Passion has no age. And aren't children passionate, those who follow music courses 3 times a week, learning music theory, studying scores, rehearsing, putting their whole heart on stage?

Doesn't the simple wish of children to sing, play, step onto the stage, next to the 'big ones', quickly turn into an attachment, an affection, an appetite, a passion, a madness, an obsession for music?

On 13 May, children will share their love for singing with the public, through activities organised for all. The concert '*The nature in songs*' stands out, with arrangement composed by a truly passionate lady: the composer Line Adam.

Access to the concert and activities is free.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Brno – National Theatre

www.ndbrno.cz/opera/operastar

OPERA STAR – a talent competition to become a star of Opera.!

The National Theatre Brno is inviting every talented candidate without professional opera engagement to participate to this three rounds competitions. The candidates will make videos of their performances to be published on the Internet. Semi-finals will take place in the Janacek Theatre in Brno on May 12, 2012 with the participation of a jury. The final show for the public will take place in the Janacek Theatre on May 12, 2012, with the participation of well-known Czech celebrities of the Opera and show business.

The winner of the OPERA STAR competition will be offered cooperation with the Janacek Opera of the National Theatre Brno.

Ostrava – National Moravian-Silesian Theatre

www.ndm.cz

The National Moravian-Silesian Theatre will start celebrating Passion on Friday 11 May in a club of Ostrava, with a crazy fashion show of opera costumes. The show will be performed by „*Ňů fešň šopa*“, an alternative group, together with ballet dancers. Two actors of the Theatre will play the speakers and explain the history and background of the costumes.

On Saturday 12 May the celebration will go on, with their Top Secret performance of *Carmen, Rodolfo & Juliette* at the Antonín Dvořák Theatre.

Opera devotees from their opera productions will lead a series of pre-performance guided tours for the curious public. The guides will give a very personal description of their working day in the opera house, from the reception to the stage. The visitors will get to know about how the set of the evening performance was built, or what exactly costume, mask and props staff do before the performance. These activities relate to *Armida* by Antonín Dvořák, the evening programme of Saturday. And that is not all! Visitors will have a chance to try how to use revolving stage or how to open the curtain under the guidance of the technical director, and the Chief of lighting will give the participants a small lecture about lighting. Visitors will have a look at rehearsal rooms to hear a little bit of voice exercises of singers and they will come across many other opera secrets.

Before the evening performance, there will be a pre-performance talk together with the dramaturge and the opera director.

GERMANY

Düsseldorf – Deutsche Oper am Rhein

www.rheinoper.de

The Theater Duisburg will host a voyage of exploration on 13 May between 11am and 12.30am: treading secret paths, discovering new places, becoming at home in a strange world...

Families will be invited to explore Theater Duisburg. They will embark on a double journey, behind the scenes and in their imagination. They will have access to places where normally the public is not let in: the stage, the costume shop and the make-up room. And then the call is – try it out yourself! Their own acting and playing will conjure a new world into our rehearsal rooms, when they will get to know the main features of our current children's opera.

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Essen – Aalto-Musiktheater Essen

www.theater-essen.de

On the afternoon of 12 May, Aalto-Musiktheater plans a backstage programme for the whole family, called "Families make opera".

The programme is a call for children and their entire families to participate in a theatre education programme. On a journey through the magical cosmos of the opera house, everybody may look behind the blue curtain and get to know many of the departments that are involved in an opera production, be it the carpentry or the costume department.

Then, the newly acquired knowledge will be translated directly into practice: the families will prepare and rehearse a scene, including the costumes and masks.

This 3 hours programme will not only offer a glimpse behind the scenes, but also provide the opportunity to actively learn about life on the opera stage. Certainly a unique experience for all ages!

The direct link is:

<http://www.aalto-musiktheater.de/abenteuer-aalto/familien-machen-oper.htm>

Magdeburg – Theater Magdeburg

www.theater-magdeburg.de

On 13 May, Theater Magdeburg is planning a guided tour of the opera house in the morning. The programme will go on at night, with a pre-performance lecture on *The Io Passion*, a chamber opera by Harrison Birtwistle (first production in German), followed by the performance itself. After the performance, the audience is invited to stay for a discussion.

IRELAND

Dublin – Opera Theatre Company

www.opera.ie

On Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 May, Opera Theatre Company celebrates the European Opera Days with an outdoor promenade performance of Bach's *Coffee Cantata* in the exquisite Merrion Hotel Gardens in Dublin.

Lieschen, a dedicated young caffeine lover, is under pressure. She adores her three cups of coffee a day but her father insists she break the habit. His threats escalate with her defiant resistance – first she's grounded, then no more ribbons for her bonnet, and then no new fashionable skirts! It culminates when he forbids her to marry unless she agrees to give up coffee forever. What will the resourceful coffee lover do? Can she outwit her dad or will she relent and give in? Opera Theatre Company's Young Associate Artists invites all to join for this whimsical trip through time in the delightful gardens of the Merrion Hotel. OTC, Ireland's National Touring Opera Company is proud to be celebrating European Opera Days with this enchanting performance, which is guaranteed to delight both the first time opera-goer and the season fan. Tickets are free but booking is essential.

ITALY

Como – Teatro Sociale di Como

www.teatrosocialecomo.it

Passion will be celebrated on 12 May 2012 with an Opera Recital of the Aslico Competition's Winners. The recital will feature the young winners of the 63rd edition of the Aslico Competition of Young Opera Singers in Europe 2012, together with the best singers of the past editions, who have in the meantime launched their career and become professionals. The best arias of Italian opera repertoire will be accompanied at the piano by Federica Falasconi. Entrance is free.

Bologna – Teatro Comunale

www.comunalebologna.it

On the 12 May, The days starts with a welcome by the intendant, Francesco Ernani, followed by guided visits in the Opera House (with various surprises and highlights) in Italian, Russian, Arab and Chinese. There will also be simultaneously drawing "competition" outside the Opera house "Sotto il portico" on the theme: "Draw your PASSION for the Theatre of your city" – all children and visitors of the day will get a gift from the Opera House related to the season (T-Shirt) and the EOD event. The session will be mastered and followed by the production and stagedesigner of the Opera.

Flash mobs (Opera is Smart!) will be on youtube realtime.

And to close the event, at 6pm, a Recital of Italiana in Algeri by G.Rossini dir. Francesco Esposito, Conductor Paolo Olmi.

MONACO

Monte-Carlo – Opéra de Monte-Carlo

www.opera.mc

During the season, Opéra de Monte-Carlo joins the European Opera Days *en avant-première* with free programmes all along the season. The first event was held Saturday 14 January, with an open rehearsal of Massenet's *La Navarraise*. On Sunday 15 January, the second open rehearsal let the visitors discover Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*. On Tuesday 17 January, the children of Monaco could enjoy again an open rehearsal of Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges*. On Thursday 22 March, a free concert of the Monte-Carlo Chorus singing pop music (*Crossover Chorus*) is planned. And on Sunday 15 April, another open rehearsal is organised, around Verdi's *Macbeth* this time.

THE NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam – De Nederlandse Opera

www.dno.nl

De Nederlandse Opera proposes Jong Rast, a participation project.

During the European Opera days on 12 and 13 May 12th, the participants of the Training Group of Jong Rast will create a performance based on the opera *Il turco in Italia* by Rossini, which is simultaneously performed by De Nederlandse Opera.

Jong RAST is an intercultural theater project by Theatre Rast for young people aged 15 to 24 years. The objective is to create a theatrical environment in Amsterdam's Nieuw West district, where ambitious young people from different cultural backgrounds become acquainted with theatre in all its forms. Young people's experiences and perceptions will make up a fundamental part of the project and a personal realistic style will be used. In this way Young Rast contributes to talent development, promotes the flow of young people into theatre education and increases their access to the professional field of theatre.

Participants of the Training Group receive a weekly drama class which is focused around movement, voice and singing. In conclusion they spend one weekend making a site-specific theatre performance under the supervision of director Elike Roovers.

During the rehearsal process, De Nederlandse Opera's workshop instructors offer the young participants workshops. They will also receive a behind-the-scenes tour, attend part of a rehearsal of *Il turco in Italia* at the Amsterdam Music Theatre and meet a dramaturge and singer from the opera's cast. In this way they will get to know the theater from the inside out and allow De Nederlandse Opera to serve as a source of inspiration.

Maastricht – Opera Zuid

www.operazuid.nl

Opera Zuid will take part in the European Opera Days 2012 with a small but charming programme all focused on sharing passion for opera, taking place from 10.15 am until 1.30 pm on 12 March.

Members of the Friends' Association of Opera Zuid will be invited for a guided tour around the Parktheater Eindhoven, as well as attending a rehearsal of *Madama Butterfly* by Puccini. The Director will also introduce someone else in the artistic team.

Every joining member is asked to bring one friend or introduce opera to a friend who has never been introduced before. Opera Zuid invites the committed members of the Friends' Association to share their passion for opera with someone close to them.

PORTUGAL

Lisbon - Companhia de Ópera do Castelo

www.operadocastelo.com

Love in the factory, in co-production with Fábrica do Braço de Prata in Lisbon

Opera and passion will be all over Fábrica do Braço de prata/Silver Arm Factory, one of the coolest venues in Lisbon to see and ear music alive for all tastes, this time celebrating the European Opera Days. On the 11th and 12th, between 22h00 and 24h00 you'll find opera happening in every room of this eclectic cultural center, surprising all kinds of publics. From Mozart to Verdi, from Puccini to Gershwin, from opera to cabaret, moments of true passion, of desperation, of joy or seduction, the sky is the limit to have fun, enjoy and bring opera to everyone!

ROMANIA

Bucharest - Bucharest National Opera

www.operanb.ro

On 12 May 2012, the celebration will be opened by a presentation of *Don Giovanni*, a coproduction between the Bucharest National University of Music, the Bucharest National University of Arts and the Bucharest National Opera. The production team includes Anda Tabacaru Hogeia as director, Anca Albani for the sets and costumes, Monica Mihăescu for the choreography, and Cătălin Voineag as assistant director.

On 13 May 2012, a Ballet Gala will close the week-end.

RUSSIA

Moscow – State Opera for Children and Young People named after Natalia Sats

www.teatr-sats.ru On 7 and 8 May, Russia celebrates the victory over fascism. In this context, the Moscow State Academic Music Theatre for Children will present *Son of the Regiment*, a contemporary opera by Alexander Flyarkovsk based on a book by Valentin Kataev. It tells the story of an ordinary schoolboy who, accidentally caught in the middle of military events, becomes involved in incredible and dangerous events and grows up before our eyes. An exciting opera full of soulful lyricism for 'young ears' from 7 years old. Young audiences will also have an opportunity to learn more about the theatre through a series of events, including: a guided tour in the theatre workshops (make-up, props, wardrobe) and backstage; access to rehearsals, an orchestra master-class with explanations from the conductor and musicians etc. The performance 'Marimba or the history of the singing tree' will present works by composers who worked at different times in history and in different countries and continents to the sound of the marimba solo, ensemble of percussions and voice, including folk songs from Africa, Brazil and Argentina. Finally, chamber music ensemble and singers will present the works of medieval composers in the theatre foyer.

SERBIA

Belgrade – Madlenianum Opera & Theatre

www.madlenianum.rs

For their 5th celebration of the European Opera Days, Madlenianum Opera & Theater plans a full afternoon of *Passion for Music* on Saturday 12 May 2012. This year's celebration is dedicated to teenagers.

The afternoon will start with a Concert of the Chamber Orchestra of the Music School "Stevan St. Mokranjac" at 12pm at Bel Etage. The Programme includes, conducted by Vladimir Milić:

J.S. Bach - Concerto for Two Violins in D Minor (BWV 1043)

A. Vivaldi – Concerto for Two Violins in A Minor (RV 522)

E. Grieg – Holberg Suite (OP 40)

A workshop on the theme of *Passion for Musical Instruments* will follow, answering to the question *Who does play in a String Orchestra ?*

At 3pm there will be a Public Reading on the theme: *Zauberfloete* and *Pagliacci*

Passion for Singing will lead the next programme at 4pm with a Mozart Concert (extracts of *Zauberfloete*) by the Youth Club of The Society of Madlenianum Opera Friends (Conductor: Miodrag Janoski)

Passion as an opera theme will be explored at 7.30pm on the Great Stage with R. Leoncavallo's opera *Pagliacci*

A permanent exhibition and Workshop of "TEHNOART" Belgrade, School for traditional handcraft and modern art handcraft will be held on the Theme "Pagliacci"

SPAIN

Madrid – Teatro Real

www.teatro-real.com

In Madrid, thousands of people will be able to enjoy *Cyrano de Bergerac* with Plácido Domingo on a giant screen on Plaza de Oriente.

Oviedo – Opera de Oviedo

www.operaoviedo.com

Ópera + Arts

Oviedo Opera will coordinate through five titles a multidisciplinary project encompassing works in music, painting, literature, design and development 2.0., involving young talents. The project will coincide with the celebration of 120th anniversary of the Teatro Campoamor in Oviedo.

Palma de Mallorca – Amics de l'Òpera del Teatre Principal

www.operamallorca.org

On 2 May at 8.30 pm, Amics de l'Òpera del Teatre Principal will celebrate the European Opera Days with an up front Soprano & tenor concert (in French and Catalan) with Maia Planas – soprano, Juan Carlos Falcón – tenor, and David Mohedano – pianist. The repertoire will be as follows:

- **1st** : *A l'ombra del lledoner* and *Cançó del grumet* (with Eduard Toldrà) followed by *Vocaliso* (from the opera *Una voce in off*), *Punto de Habanera* (from the cycle *Cantos negros*), Henri Duparc's *L'invitation au voyage*, *Chanson triste*, *Le manoir de Rosemonde*, *Phidylé*, *Fiançailles pour rire* (Francis Poulenc), *D'un coeur qui t'aime* (duo with Charles Gounod) with Xavier Montsalvatge.

- **2nd** : *La dame de Monte-Carlo* (Francis Poulenc), *Couplets du canard* from *L'île de Tulipatan* (Offenbach), and *Adieux, notre petite table*, *En fermant les yeux*, *Duo de Saint Sulpice: Toi! Vous!* from Jules Massenet's opera *Manon*).

Seville – Teatro de la Maestranza

www.teatrodelamaestranza.es

On the 12 and 13 May 2012, between 10am and 2pm, El Teatro de la Maestranza will celebrate the European Opera Days in conjunction with the programme 'Seville city of Opera'.

The celebrations will feature free guided tours of the Theatre house. Other activities will include live recitals performed by the soprano Inmaculada Águila, presentation of the programme 'Seville, city of Opera' and of the loyalty card 'Fidelio', as well as an outdoor itinerary of the opera *Carmen* with an audioguide. The day will reach its peak with a family gymkhana. The participants will have to answer ten questions based on the itinerary of *Carmen*. The prizes for the winners will be seasonal tickets of the Teatro Maestranza.

SWEDEN

Göteborg – GöteborgsOperan

www.opera.se

On Saturday 12 May, GöteborgsOperan opens its Foyer at 10.45 am for a story of the Little Magic Flute, followed by a concert "Canary" Cantata String Quartet in C-major. At night *Die Zauberflöte* by Mozart will be performed on the Main Stage.

The Opera *Lucrezia Borgia* by Gaetano Donizetti is the chosen performance for Sunday 13 May on the Main Stage.

UNITED KINGDOM

Cardiff – Welsh National Opera

www.wno.org.uk

Welsh National Opera will be collaborating with the Wales Millennium Centre for the European Opera Days. As part of their *Alice in Wonderland* Family Day, families will be offered the opportunity to take part in a singing workshop led by choral animator Kate Woolveridge. Kate will be teaching animal songs by Welsh composer Mervyn Burtch, followed by a lunchtime concert in which Kate will sing a selection of operatic animal songs, accompanied by writer Simon Rees who will be reading from his poetry collection: *Animals, Beasts and Creatures*.

Inverness & Glasgow – Scottish Opera

www.scottishopera.org.uk

Scottish Opera will present in **Inverness** performances of *A little of Tosca*, a 'pop-up' version for singer, with 2 musicians and a storyteller. In **Glasgow**, performances of *Sensoryo* will take place, aimed at very small children (18 – 26 months) and their carers. *Sing up Saturday* is also on the programme, as part of a series of weekly classes of song, dance and drama for 3 – 11 year olds.

Leeds – Opera North

www.operanorth.co.uk

Saturday 12 May will be dedicated to **The Power of Song**. The activities in Leeds will include a workshop exploring diverse vocal traditions, a family workshop and a free evening concert of operatic highlights. Leeds working with new partners outside the art form, Opera North aims to promote the relevance of opera to today's audience and will use social and digital media to communicate its EOD events to new attendees.

Lewes (online only) – Glyndebourne

www.glyndebourne.com

For the weekend 12/13 May 2012, Glyndebourne will be supporting the weekend by giving exclusive free access to *On Such a Night* – a 37 minute film originally released in 1956 that was released on DVD only in 2011 but has received no other screenings. The film will be available free for the weekend via

glyndebourne.com exclusively to support the Opera Europa weekend - and will be accompanied by supporting digital materials for the viewer.

On Such a Night was directed by Anthony Asquith and stars David Knight, Marie Lohr and Josephine Griffin. The quintessentially English film tells the tale of an American tourist who, arriving at Victoria station in London with the intention to visit the picturesque South Downs, follows a group of well-dressed opera goers to Glyndebourne in search of the elusive 'New Countess'. There he watches his first opera – *Le Nozze di Figaro* – of which a number of original and rare excerpts of live performance are included.

London – Royal Opera House and English National Opera

www.roh.org.uk, www.eno.org

The Opera Sleepover - Have you ever wondered what really happens at the Opera House when the curtain comes down and the audience has gone home? Now's a chance to find out because, to mark European Opera Days 2012, the Royal Opera House working in collaboration with English National Opera is holding its first ever Opera Sleepover! The sleepover is for 8-11 year olds, who will have the chance to take part in a range of fantastic opera-based activities, before snuggling down at midnight in the Amphitheatre Bar & Restaurant above the spectacular Paul Hamlyn Hall. The morning after, kids will eat breakfast in the staff and artists' canteen, normally reserved for opera and ballet stars!

Warwick – English Touring Opera

www.englishtouringopera.org.uk

English Touring Opera are touring the UK this spring with two full-length operas, *The Barber of Seville* and *Eugene Onegin*, as well as three operas for young people, *The Feathered Ogre*, *In the Belly of the Horse* and *RedBlueGreen*, for audiences of children ranging from 18 months to 11 years old. On Saturday 12 May ETO are in residency at the Warwick Arts Centre. To celebrate European Opera Day, and its theme of Passion, ETO will present a range of activities for families as well as for adult audiences.

During the afternoon, eight singers and players from ETO will present *The Feathered Ogre*, a brand new opera for younger children and families based on the stories of Italo Calvino, with a magical score by Russell Hepplewhite. Partly an introduction to some of the key instruments of the orchestra, the interactive story takes us from the court of the sick king to the distant mountains to steal some of the ogre's feathers.

Afterwards, families and children will take *A Trip to the Barber's*, and children get the chance to enter the world of *The Barber of Seville*, where they will meet key characters, explore the set and the lighting, and sing with the conductor.

In the evening ETO will present Thomas Guthrie's new production of Rossini's famous opera *The Barber of Seville*, starring Kitty Whately (winner of The Kathleen Ferrier Award) as Rosina and Grant Doyle as the barber Figaro.



TOUS A L'OPÉRA ! IN A FEW WORDS

6th edition of the event on 12 and 13 May 2012
30 participating opera houses in France at this day
Ruggero Raimondi and Julie Fuchs, sponsors 2012 (following Natalie Dessay, Roberto Alagna, Rolando Villazón, Béatrice Uria-Monzon) and Nathalie Manfrino.
Public success (over **75,000** visitors each year)
Organiser: Réunion des Opéras de France (ROF)

THE PROJECT

On 17 February 2007, for the first time in their history, 25 French opera houses decided to open their doors to audiences, on the same day, all together.

The initiative took place in the context of the first *European Opera Days*, in which some 100 opera houses took part, from Paris to Moscow and from Lisbon to Helsinki.

As the year 2007 celebrated the 400th anniversary of the first operatic masterpiece - Monteverdi's *Orfeo* - opera houses wanted to show the vitality of a singular art form that unites all arts.

The first edition of this unprecedented event in the history of opera houses is sponsored in France by **Natalie Dessay** who declared at the press conference: 'I want to share something, not only with opera lovers, and to say that beauty is not reserved to an elite.'

Such is the ambition of the event : to encourage ever more people to visit and share those houses dedicated to creation and production; to establish their vocation as resource pools on their territories - from artistic creation to distribution, from the artistic education of children to support to training and career development schemes.

Tous à l'Opéra ! is an invitation to all those who never dared cross the threshold of an opera house, an invitation to discover a unique place in the world of performing arts employing 6,500 people - artists, technicians, electricians, props makers... - and bringing together music, dance, stage technique, in the service of the public.

Year after year, the teams of opera houses mobilise to prepare the event and introduce opera and its multiple facets: performances and rehearsals, encounters with artists and technicians, guided tours behind the scenes, film screenings, costume, wig and make-up workshops, singing and dance workshops, light and sound workshops, direction workshops, and many more.





Opera Europa

www.opera-europa.org

Opera Europa is the European association of opera houses and festivals. Its purpose is to strengthen opera companies throughout Europe by means of mutual support and collective action. Its membership encompasses 116 opera companies in 36 countries.

Opera Europa believes that:

- Opera is one of Europe's most important living art forms
- Opera is a unifying force communicating across culture, language and national boundaries
- Performances of opera are seen and heard by millions of people annually in theatres, arenas and via electronic media
- Each opera company is unique and autonomous
- Opera has a role to play within European society

Opera Europa acts as a platform for discussion and collaboration on subjects of common concern to opera professionals. It has developed a range of professional services for its members' use, such as biannual conferences, specialist forums (Marketing, Fundraising, HR, Technique, etc), databases and webservice, expert consultancy.

But Opera Europa also supports initiatives for the art form and the wider audience, as the coordinator of the European Opera Days and the European Opera Passport Opass, encouraging young cultural tourists up to 30 years old to travel through Europe and enjoy opera.

Recent events include an autumn conference in Warsaw hosted by Polish National Opera/Teatr Wielki (13-16 October 2011) and a spring conference at Opéra national de Lyon (15-18 March 2012).



RESEO

www.reseo.org

RESEO is the European Network for Opera and Dance Education. Founded in 1996, its strength lies in the number and diversity of its membership, which currently comprises over 70 opera and dance organisations of all sizes from 21 countries in Europe.

RESEO seeks to promote the practice of opera and dance education and outreach in Europe. Supported by the network, the members reach out to citizens via diverse education activities (performances, workshops, projects), aiming at providing access to opera and dance for all.

The network is driven by five key aims:

- As the principal platform for opera and dance professionals in Europe, it aims at facilitating the exchange of ideas on processes, practice, performance, products and projects
- To be an essential resource and research centre for the opera and dance sector in Europe
- To initiate artistic collaboration, and innovative new work across Europe
- To raise the public profile of opera and dance education within the cultural sector and more broadly to European citizens as well as stakeholders
- To continuously develop the structure and actions of the network to meet the varying needs of the membership.

RESEO encourages mutually enriching exchange between education professionals, through biannual conferences, meetings, exclusive invitations to projects and performances and an active programme of project-based work. Its website provides a showcase for members' works and a regular newsletter keeps members informed of cutting-edge issues and programmes in the field of arts education.

In 2011, RESEO organised an autumn conference in Utrecht (Netherlands), coinciding with the Yo! Festival for young audiences (23-26 November). The theme was New Media, as a means for reaching out to new audiences and as an artistic element in productions and education projects.



Réunion des Opéras de France

www.rof.fr

La Réunion des Opéras de France (ROF) currently brings together 25 opera houses, stages and festivals.

Chaired by Laurent Hénart, French MP and Deputy Mayor of Nancy, it constitutes a national network and a permanent organ of cooperation with the French Ministry for Culture and Communication.

ROF aims at defending and promoting the lyrical and choreographic arts in all their forms. It carries out these missions through information, coordination and valorisation. To this end, it develops a resource centre on opera. It is a meeting and exchange platform for opera professionals as well as their mouthpiece vis-à-vis public authorities. Finally, it contributes to the promotion of opera by all possible means in order to foster better understanding and access to the largest possible audience.

In this context, ROF has been coordinating 'Tous à l'Opéra!' for 5 consecutive years in France, an event which also involves opera houses and organisations outside its membership (Grand Théâtre de Provence, Festival d'Art Lyrique, Théâtre musical de Besançon, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, etc).

With 29 participating companies in France, ROF confirms the vitality of its representation within the European context.



National Opera Coordinating Committee

The National Opera Coordinating Committee (NOCC) exists to coordinate the activities of the large-scale opera sector, across the UK. NOCC is a forum to share medium and long range repertoire plans, touring activity and press night information. The aim of coordinating this information is to ensure that opera audiences throughout the country have the widest possible access to world class opera performances. Through an open and flexible cooperation between its members and partners, NOCC aims to avoid geographical clashes of repertoire and touring and enables the national coordination of press nights.

NOCC is the networking forum for the UK opera sector to meet and share issues of common importance. NOCC has coordinated the plans of the Royal Opera, English National Opera, English Touring Opera, Glyndebourne, Opera North, Scottish Opera and Welsh National Opera for the UK's response to European Opera Days and actively encourages a national press campaign to promote the European Opera Days to the UK media.



Ópera XXI

www.operaxxi.com

OPERA XXI, founded in February 2005, was created as a response to the increase of activities related to the world of opera over Spain in the last years.

OPERA XXI unites the professional opera companies and opera festivals throughout Spain and it is committed to promote all actions that lead to bring the opera to a wider audience and to encourage the production of new operas.

OPERA XXI, as first achievement, has produced: *Dulcinea*, an opera for children based on *Don Quijote* by Miguel de Cervantes, recently presented at the Teatro Real and now on tour.

OPERA XXI is involved in projects to improve practical aspects of management that especially concerns to its members.

OPERA XXI is working in partnership with the European Opera Days promoting programmes dedicated to make opera more popular.



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The European Opera Days are a joint initiative by:

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