

PRESS PACK

11 March 2010



8-9 May 2010
'Crossing Bridges'

Contact:

Anne-Line Duplan
press@operadays.eu
+32 2217 6705

A joint initiative by OPERA EUROPA and RESEO



Table of content

1. Press release	3
2. Why the European Opera Days?	4
by Joan Matabosch, President of Opera Europa and Linda Lovrovic, Chair of RESEO	
3. The European Opera Days throughout Europe	5
4. Programmes	6
1. Belgium, Liège, Opéra Royal de Wallonie	7
2. Czech Republic, Brno, National Theatre Brno	8
3. Czech Republic, Prague, National Theatre Prague	9
4. Finland, Helsinki, Finnish National Opera	10
5. Germany, Düsseldorf-Duisburg, Deutsche Oper am Rhein	11
6. Germany, Essen, Aalto-Musiktheater Essen	12
7. Germany, Karlsruhe, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe	13
8. Germany, Magdeburg, Theater Magdeburg	14
9. Iceland, Reykjavik, Icelandic Opera	15
10. Italy, Como, As.Li.Co. Teatro Sociale di Como	16
11. Lithuania, Vilnius, Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre	17
12. Netherlands, Amsterdam, De Nederlandse Opera	18
13. Netherlands, Enschede, Nationale Reisopera	19
14. Netherlands, Maastricht, Opera Zuid	20
15. Norway, Oslo, Den Norske Opera & Ballett	21
16. Norway, Tromsø, The World Opera	22
17. Romania, Bucharest, Bucharest National Opera	23
18. Romania, Cluj- Napoca, Cluj-Napoca Romanian National Opera	24
19. Serbia, Belgrade, Madlenianum Opera & Theatre	25
20. Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovene National Theatre Opera and Ballet	26
21. Spain, Barcelona, Gran Teatre del Liceu	27
22. Sweden, Göteborg, GöteborgsOperan	28
23. United Kingdom, Aldeburgh, English Touring Opera	29
24. United Kingdom, Cardiff, Welsh National Opera	30
25. United Kingdom, Inverness, Scottish Opera	31
26. United Kingdom, Leeds, Opera North	32
27. United Kingdom, London, Royal Opera House	33
5. Partners	34
1. Opera Europa	35
2. RESEO	35
3. Réunion des Opéras de France	36
4. Ópera XXI	37
5. National Opera Co-ordinating Committee	37
6. Contact details	38



**8-9 May 2010
'Crossing Bridges'**

On 8 and 9 May 2010, 100 opera houses in 22 countries will celebrate the 4th edition of the European Opera Days with a weekend of festive and free events open to all.

On Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 May, opera houses around Europe will unite to celebrate the art of opera and the talent of those who make it. Throughout the weekend, they will open their doors and invite everyone to discover their treasures through a range of activities and performances: creative workshops, open rehearsals, guided tours of theatres, open-air concerts, public sing-alongs with the chorus, meetings with artists, etc.

This year, opera houses and their audiences are called to 'Cross Bridges': bridges between theatres and their neighbourhoods, between opera and other creative art forms, between cultures. Opera is inspired from the wider world and reaches far beyond theatre walls; this year's European Opera Days highlight the paths that lead to opera.

The first European Opera Days were celebrated in 2007, in honour of the 400th anniversary of the first masterpiece of opera, Monteverdi's *Orfeo*. Since then, it has become a regular rendez-vous for opera lovers and newcomers of all ages. For four years now, hundreds of thousands of people each year have seized the opportunity to explore the opera world from backstage, in front of the stage or even on stage!

**On 8 and 9 May, from France to Russia and from Norway to Spain,
let Europe resonate to the sound of opera!**

The following pages will give you an overview of what will happen across Europe during the European Opera Days. Participating companies have sent us photos and quotations illustrating the theme 'Crossing Bridges' and how their European Opera Days relate to it. For more information, you may also visit the website www.operadays.eu or contact press@operadays.eu.

*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.*

Why the European Opera Days?

A word from Opera Europa and RESEO Presidents

Since 2007, our associations Opera Europa and RESEO have worked together to coordinate the European Opera Days and encourage their members throughout Europe to organise open-day events during a common weekend of celebration. Why?

We believe that opera is a European art form *par excellence*. Inspired by ancient Greek theatre, born in Italy and progressively spreading through the whole continent, it has nourished European identities and overcome 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, expressed through the diversity of our perceptions and traditions. Therefore, what better day to celebrate the European Opera Days than 9 May: Europe Day.

Opera has a major role to play in cultural life and in society at large. Often accused of being elitist and out-of-date, Opera today is extraordinarily alive and kicking. Exploring unconventional spaces, performed in pubs and metro stations, it also uses multimedia and state-of-the-art technology to tell stories which reach out and speak to us all. Opera is experienced by millions of people of all ages every year, increasingly thanks to the inspiring work carried out by education departments in a growing number of houses.

The theme of this year's European Opera Days, 'Crossing Bridges', is a stimulating metaphor for the art of opera today. Opera is not an art which can or should stay within its own walls. It reaches out, links to other art forms, creates bridges to local communities, and to people who have not yet discovered its surprises.

We want to share with our audiences the passion that unites us in companies throughout the continent. Opera houses are home to an impressive wealth of rare talents and crafts which are just waiting to be discovered. The European Opera Days themselves are the result of the coordinated efforts of our teams that have brought together their skills and creativity to offer the public two whole days of fascinating activities.



Joan Matabosch
President of Opera Europa



Linda Lovrovic
Chair of RESEO

The European Opera Days throughout Europe

100 participants in 22 countries

Belgium

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

Czech Republic

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

Denmark

Copenhagen, Royal Danish Opera

Finland

Helsinki, Finnish National Opera

France

Aix-en-Provence, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence
Aix-en-Provence, Grand Théâtre de Provence
Angers-Nantes, Angers-Nantes Opéra
Avignon, Opéra-Théâtre d'Avignon et des Pays de Vaucluse
Besançon, Théâtre musical de Besançon
Bordeaux, Opéra national de Bordeaux
Caen, Théâtre de Caen
Compiègne, Théâtre impérial de Compiègne
Dijon, Opéra de Dijon
Lille, Opéra de Lille
Limoges, Opéra-Théâtre de Limoges
Marseille, Opéra de Marseille
Massy, Opéra de Massy
Metz, Opéra-Théâtre de Metz
Montpellier, Opéra national de Montpellier
Nancy, Opéra national de Lorraine
Nice, Opéra de Nice
Paris, Opéra Comique
Paris, Opéra national de Paris
Paris, Péniche Opéra
Reims, Grand Théâtre de Reims
Rouen, Opéra de Rouen Haute Normandie
Saint-Denis de la Réunion, Théâtre Vollard
Saint-Etienne, Opéra Théâtre de Saint-Etienne
Strasbourg, Opéra national du Rhin
Toulon, Opéra Toulon Provence Méditerranée
Toulouse, Théâtre du Capitole
Tours, Grand Théâtre de Tours

Georgia

Tbilisi, Tbilisi Opera and Ballet State Theatre

Germany

Bremen, Bremer Theater
Düsseldorf-Duisburg, Deutsche Oper am Rhein
Essen, Aalto Musiktheater
Karlsruhe, Badisches Staatstheater
Magdeburg, Theater Magdeburg

Hungary

Budapest, Hungarian State Opera

Iceland

Reykjavik, Icelandic Opera

Italy

Bologna, Teatro Comunale di Bologna
Bologna
Como, Teatro Sociale di Como
AsLiCo
Torino, Teatro Regio di Torino
Verona, Arena di Verona

Lithuania

Vilnius, Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre

Luxembourg

Luxembourg, Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg

Netherlands

Amsterdam, De Nederlandse Opera
Enschede, Nationale Reisopera
Maastricht, Opera Zuid

Norway

Oslo, Den Norske Opera og Ballett
Tromsø, The World Opera

Romania

Bucharest, Bucharest National Opera
Cluj-Napoca, Cluj-Napoca Romanian National Opera
Iassy, National Romanian Opera Iassy

Russia

Moscow, Stanislavsky & Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Music Theatre
Saint Petersburg, Star World

Serbia

Belgrade, Madlenianum Opera and Theatre

Slovenia

Ljubljana, Slovene National Theatre Opera and Ballet
Maribor, Opera and Ballet Maribor

South Africa

Cape Town, Cape Festival

Spain

Albacete, Teatro Circo
Barcelona, Gran Teatre del Liceu
Bilbao, Asociación Bilbaína de Amigos de la Ópera (ABAO)
Bilbao, Teatro Arriaga
Calvià, Associació cultural musical Pere Josep Cañellas
Castelló de la Plana, Teatre Principal de Castelló
Córdoba, Gran Teatre de Córdoba
Jerez de la Frontera, Teatro Villamarta
La Coruña, Amigos de la Ópera de La Coruña
Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Amigos Canarios de la Ópera
Madrid, Teatro Real
Madrid, Amigos de la Ópera de Madrid
Madrid, Teatro de la Zarzuela
Mahón, Teatre Principal
Mahón, Amigos de la Ópera de Mahón
Málaga, Teatro Cervantes
Oviedo, Fundación Opera Oviedo
Oviedo, Teatro Campoamor de Oviedo
Oviedo, Fundación Premios Líricos Teatro Campoamor
Palma de Mallorca, Teatre Principal de Palma de Mallorca
Pamplona, Fundación Baluarte
Pamplona, Asociación Gayarre de Amigos de la Ópera (AGAO)
Peralada, Festival Internacional de Música Castell de Peralada
Sabadell, Amics de l'Òpera de Sabadell
San Sebastián, Quincena Musical de San Sebastián
Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Asociación tinerfeña Amigos de la Ópera
Santander, Festival Internacional de Santander
Santander, Palacio de Festivales
Sevilla, Teatro de la Maestranza
Valencia, Palau de les Arts
Valladolid, Teatro Calderón

Sweden

Göteborg, GöteborgsOperan

United Kingdom

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

*P*rogrammes

Belgium Liège, Opéra Royal de Wallonie

*Nous chantons tous les mêmes gestes;
Nous parlons tous la même musique;
Nous dansons tous les mêmes mots; Alors franchissons le pont
Construisons ensemble un HipHopéra*

*We all speak the same music, We all sing the same movements,
We all dance the same words, Then let's cross the bridge
Let's build together a HipOpera*



Beatbox Boîte à Musique Beat Batterie Cœur Cœur de la Ville
Cité Quartier Tribu Urban Human Hipopéra Hip Hourra Bravi Bis
Break BBoy Barython Basse BeatMaker Compositeur Maestro
MC Maître De Cérémonie MS Metteur En Scène Mezzo Soprano
Opéra Rap Flow Saccadé Saccato Slam ACappella Graffiti Scène Graphie
NOUS CHANTONS TOUS LES MÊMES GESTES
NOUS PARLONS TOUS LA MÊME MUSIQUE
NOUS DANSONS TOUS LES MÊMES MOTS
ALORS FRANCHISSONS LE PONT
CONSTRUISONS ENSEMBLE UN HIPHOPERA

Journées Européennes de l'Opéra
PALAIS OPERA DE LIEGE
8 mai 2010

BATTLE DONIZETTI Pour TOUS de 1 à 101 ans
Novices Curieux Avertis Réfractaires de tous bords : Ne pas s'abstenir

ATELIERS > Human BeatBox Chant Lyrique Slam Bboying Graff
SHOW > BATTLE rassemble Tous les participants et Toutes les disciplines

Practical information:

Palais Opéra de Liège - Site Bavière
Boulevard de la Constitution - 4000 Liège
Tel: +32 42 21 47 22
E-mail: location@orw.be
Internet site: www.orw.be

Press contact:

Martine VanZuylen, Directrice de la Communication
Tel: +32 42 32 42 01
E-mail: vanzuylen@orw.be

Programme:

On 8 May, on the occasion of the European Opera Days, Opéra Royal de Wallonie will give the audience the opportunity to cross the bridge between Hip-Hop culture and the opera world. We challenge curious, sceptical, novice or informed people on both sides of the bridge, who will join us to produce a great interactive show: The BattleDonizetti!

Don't worry, the battle which will take place in the arena of the Palais Opéra de Liège will not oppose the two genres, on the contrary! Each tribe will be made up of experienced artists and amateurs coming from the two cultures who have already crossed the bridge and built their HipHopéra.

Programme of the artistic battles:

First part : the workshops

Working sessions on the opera *Rita* by Donizetti (programmed in May in the Palais Opéra), to prepare the audience for the battle.

- Human BeatBox: representing several types of musical instruments using only one's voice, throat and nose
- Slam: on the basis of an extract of the libretto of *Rita*, rewriting the text and reading it, saying it or chanting it in the style of urban poets
- Opera singing: in a choir, learning how to sing an extract of the score
- B-Boying: Breakdance Workshop + Bonus Moonwalk – Smurf – Robot Dance
- Graff: creating a graffiti fresco which will be used as a setting, and discovering at the same time the stylisation and geometrisation peculiar to this artistic practice

Second part : the performance

Gathered on the stage and in the theatre of the Palais Opéra, under the leadership of a Maestro-MC, the tribes will fight an artistic Battle faithful to urban tradition. The artists of the day will be able to immerse in two musical cultures, respecting to their common value: surpassing themselves!

Czech Republic Brno, National Theatre Brno

Mosty jsou od toho, aby spojovaly lidi

Bridges are there to connect people



Practical information:

National Theatre Brno
Dvořákova 11 - 657 70 Brno
Tel: +420 542 158 272
E-mail: stepankova@ndbrno.cz
Internet site: www.ndbrno.cz

Press contact:

Kristýna Štěpánková, Head of External Relations
Tel: +420 724 575 465
E-mail: stepankova@ndbrno.cz

Programme:

After last year's success, National Theatre Brno is part of the European Opera Days again.

This time, opera will leave its usual stage and directly approach the inhabitants of Brno, in a space typical for their everyday life: on Sunday 9 May, the European Opera Days will be celebrated in the city's biggest shopping centre, a spectacular space where business and culture live side by side.

The leading singers of the Janáček Opera will be the stars of an haute couture fashion show. Famous opera tunes will accompany the show created by the fashion director of the Olympia shopping centre, with the participation of clothing brands such as Zara, Mango, Gant, Benneton, Sisley, Cottonfield, Guess by Marciano, Vero Moda and Tommy Hilfiger. National Theater Brno will use the fashion show runway as a symbol for a bridge connecting opera with everyday life - because opera is an important part of our lives!

*Praha leží v srdci Evropy a Národní divadlo leží v srdci Prahy.
Praha je už od Mozartovy doby křižovatkou evropské kultury.
Takovou křižovatkou chce být i Národní divadlo.*

Prague has been said to be located at the Heart of Europe, and the National Theatre has been called the Heart of Prague. Since the time of Mozart, the city of Prague has been located at the crossroads of European culture and the National Theatre has been at the centre of this crossroad.

Practical information:

National Theatre - Ostrovní 1, Prague 1

Estates Theatre - Ovocný trh, Prague 1

Tel: +420 224 901 448

E-mail: info@narodni-divadlo.cz

Internet site: www.narodni-divadlo.cz

Press contact:

Don Nixon, International Relations

Tel: +420 224 901 270

E-mail: d.nixon@narodni-divadlo.cz

Programme:

The new productions of the National Theatre are of special significance to the theme of 'Crossing Bridges'. As the production teams of most of our new operas include artists from all over the world – from Japan, the US, and various countries throughout Europe – the interpretation of the operas for the Czech stages will be the results of the 'crossing of several bridges' over the course of several months of collaboration between artists from various cultures.

Saturday 8 May

- 9.00 to 16.00: Tours of the National Theatre
- 9.00 to 12.00: Tours of the Estates Theatre
- Afternoon: Television documentary screening and discussion with Czech soloist Martina Janková, currently performing in the new production of *Idomeneo*
- 19.00: performance of the Czech classic *Libuše* by Bedřich Smetana

Sunday 9 May

- 9.00 to 12.00: Tours of the National Theatre
- 9.00 to 14.00: Tours of the Estates Theatre
- Afternoon: Television documentary screening about American theatre director Robert Wilson who is currently preparing the new production of *Káťa Kabanová* at the National Theatre
- 19.00: Performance of new opera *Idomeneo*

Practical information:

Finnish National Opera
Helsinginkatu 58 - 00251 Helsinki
Internet site: www.operafin.fi

Press contact:

press@operafin.fi

Programme:

Finnish National Opera will celebrate the European Opera Days on Saturday 8 May:

- 10.30-14.00

Free guided tours of the Opera House, starting every 30 minutes.

The public will be invited to dress up in opera and ballet costumes and have their picture taken in the Alminsali Foyer

- 11.00 and 13.00

Dance performance *My Name is Finger Radio* for children in the Main Foyer

- 12.00 and 13.30

Technical workshops (lighting, make-up and sound) for young people

- 12.00-14.00

Open rehearsal of *Papa Bach*, an opera for children

- 15.00

Concert by the singers of the Chorus of the National Opera in the Main Foyer

Germany, Düsseldorf-Duisburg, Deutsche Oper am Rhein

*Die Liebe ist immer auf Reisen und baut die Brücken zum Glück
(frei nach Rameaus Les Paladins)*

*Love is always on travel and builds the bridges to happiness
(from Rameau's Les Paladins)*



*Two Paladins: Argie (Anna Virovlanski) and Artis (Anders J. Dahlin)
© Hans Jörg Michel*

Practical information:

Deutsche Oper am Rhein
Opernplatz - 47051 Duisburg

Box office: +49 211 89 25 211
ticket@operamrhein.de
General information: +49 211 89 25 457
schule@operamrhein.de
Internet site: www.operamrhein.de

Press contact:

Tanja Brill, Communication Officer
Tel: +49 211 89 25 214
E-mail: t.brill@operamrhein.de

Programme:

Deutsche Oper am Rhein will draw upon the staging of the opera *Les Paladins* by Jean-Philippe Rameau to build a bridge between opera, dance and painting.

Young people aged 12 or more will have the possibility to discover this baroque opera through a practical workshop which will put the emphasis on crossing-over these three arts.

Ariela Siegert's direction bewitches the audience with its choreographies and decors: while the artists on stage personify the paladins' joyful trip, a painter creates colour games which are shown on stage in real time.

The practical workshop will be followed by a guided tour of the theatre's backstage area. At the end of the day, the young people will be invited to see the performance and to exchange ideas together with artistic mediators on what they will have seen and heard during the performance.

Saturday 8 May, Theater Duisburg

Practical workshop and guided tour: 16.00

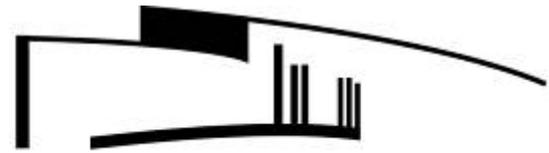
Performance: 19.30

Ticket prices upon demand

Germany Essen, Aalto-Musiktheater Essen

Schau' nicht von der Brücke, wenn du an Höhenangst leidest

Don't look from bridges when you suffer from vertigo



AALTO-MUSIKTHEATER ESSEN



View from the Bridge © Jürgen Leigendecker

Practical information:

Aalto-Musiktheater
Opernplatz 10 - 45128 Essen
Tel: +49 201 81220
E-mail: presse@aalto-musiktheater.de
Internet site: www.theater-essen.de

Press contact:

Reinhard Beuth, Head of Press & PR
Tel: +49 201 8122 213
E-mail: reinhard.beuth@aalto-musiktheater.de

Programme:

On Saturday 8 May, Aalto Theater Essen will organise a series of guided tours through the theatre:

- 14.00: Guided tour for disabled people
- 15.00: Guided tour (general)
- 16.00: Technical guided tour

To close the day, Aalto Musiktheater will present Hans-Werner Henze's *Elegie für junge Liebende* (Elegy for Young Lovers), staged by Karoline Gruber and conducted by Noam Zur. The performance is part of the Henze-Project initiated by RUHR.2010, European Capital of Culture 2010.

Oper verbindet Leben und Kunst

Opera is a bridge connecting life and art

Practical information:

Badisches Staatstheater
Baumeisterstr. 11 - 76137 Karlsruhe
Tel: +49 721 93 33 33
E-mail: kartenverkauf@badisches-staatstheater.de
Internet site: www.staatstheater.karlsruhe.de

Press contact :

Dr. Jörg Rieker, Head of Communication
Tel: +49 721 355 7232
E-mail: joerg.rieker@badisches-staatstheater.de

Programme:

To 'Cross Bridges' during the European Opera Days, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe will organise a big Opera Ball, with guests such as German soprano Anja Harteros and Italian tenor Fabio Armiliatio.

The ball will be inspired by Hungarian tradition and close a three-week festival on Hungarian culture. By placing Hungary at the centre of this year's European Opera Days, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe builds bridges between Eastern and Western Europe.

Wo keine Actiones sind, da wird es auf dem Theatro sehr frieren
(Barthold Feind, Gedanken von der Opera, 1708)

Where there is no action, there coldness will reign on stage
(Barthold Feind, Thoughts on Opera, 1708)



Maria Neumann and Jake Burden in "Imagine – Was ware wenn?"
© Nilz Böhme

Practical information:

Theater Magdeburg
Universitätsplatz 9 - 39104 Magdeburg
Tel: +49 391 540 6555
E-mail: kasse@theater.magdeburg.de
Internet site: theater-magdeburg.de

Press contact:

Kathrin Singer, Spokesperson
Tel: +49 391 540 6405
E-mail: kathrin.singer@theater.magdeburg.de

Programme:

Theater Magdeburg will invite the public to cross the bridge between drama and opera on Saturday 8 May, with activities organised both in the theatre and the opera house:

- 10.00 – 13.00
Public rehearsal of Philip Glass' *The Fall of the House of Usher* on the studio stage (theatre)
- 14.00 – 16.00
Complete guided tour of Theater Magdeburg (theatre and opera house)
- 16.00 – 18.00
Workshop for children: "What's opera?"
- 19.00 – 19.15
Lecture on *Don Giovanni* at Café Rossini (opera house)
- 19.30 – 22.30
Performance of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the opera house (special offer)
- 22.30
Post-performance discussion on the production of *Don Giovanni* at Café Rossini (opera house)

Iceland Reykjavik, Icelandic Opera

Óperan kemur á óvart!

Opera takes you by surprise!



Practical Information:

Icelandic Opera
Ingólfsstræti, Reykjavík
Tel: +354 511 64000
E-mail: opera@opera.is
Internet site: www.opera.is

Press contact:

Inga Maria Leifsdóttir, Head of Marketing and PR
Tel: +354 511 6400
E-mail: ingamaria@opera.is

Programme:

To celebrate the European Opera Days, Icelandic Opera will take their audiences by surprise!

At some point during the weekend of 8-9 May – but shh! we must not say when! – the people of Reykjavik will be surprised with arias, duets and choirs from various operas in shopping centres, schools, swimming halls and at an outdoor venue, if the weather allows it. With this innovative idea, Icelandic Opera builds bridges towards new audiences

Italy Como, Teatro Sociale di Como As.Li.Co.

*L'opera lirica è un ponte da attraversare per arrivare alle stelle
(Cornelai 79)*

*Opera is a bridge to be crossed to reach the stars
(Cornelia 79)*



Practical Information:

Teatro Sociale di Como
Via Bellini, 3 - 22100 Como
Tel: +39 031 270 171
E-mail: info@teatrosocialecomo.it
Internet site: www.teatrosocialecomo.it

Press contact:

Monica Bellotti
Tel: +39 031 270 171
E-mail: mbellotti@aslico.org; mmannari@aslico.org

Programme:

On the afternoon of Sunday 9 May, from 15.00 to 18.00 in the foyer of Teatro Sociale, it will be possible to stroll amongst videos and projections of the most famous operas: *La Somnambula*, *La Cenerentola*, *Medea*, *Il flauto magico*, *La traviata* and many others. A specialist will be present to explain everything about the works and the performances. An interactive afternoon together with opera!

Practical information:

Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre
A. Vienuolio str. 1 - Vilnius
Tel: +370 (5) 261 2646
E-mail: edukacija@opera.lt
Internet site: www.opera.lt

Press contact:

Sofija Jonaityte, Educational Project Coordinator
Tel: +370 (5) 261 2646
Email: edukacija@opera.lt

Programme:

On 8 and 9 May, the streets of Vilnius will be buzzing with activities and events celebrating Europe Day. Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre will add a taste of Opera and Dance to the day!

At the Lithuanian National Opera Theatre, students of the Opera studio for children and of the classical dance studio 'Polekis' will perform pieces from various operas and ballets, such as *Carmen* and *The Nutcracker*. The theatre will open its doors on both days and everyone will be welcome to take part in backstage tours (reservation required). Finally, on Sunday 9 May, the world première of *The Tiny Lingonberry*, an opera for children by Jonas Tamulionis, will be followed by a meeting with the creative team and opera characters.

Netherlands
Amsterdam, De Nederlandse Opera

Metamorfose van mens naar dier

Crossing bridges – the transformation from human to animal



D **e** **N** **E** **D** **E** **R**
L **A** **N** **D** **S** **E**
O **P** **E** **R** **A**

Practical information:

De Nederlandse Opera
Waterlooplein 22 - 1011 PG Amsterdam
Tel: +31 20 551 8000
E-mail: info@dno.nl
Internet site: www.dno.nl

Press contact:

Michiel Jongejan, Press Coordinator
Tel: +31 20 551 8288
E-mail: michiel.jongejan@dno.nl

Programme:

On Sunday 9 May, De Nederlandse Opera will cross the bridge that separates human beings from animals.

From 12.00 to 17.00, the company will offer a number of workshops (singing, make-up, new techniques) as well as guided tours, a fashion show and a panel discussion on the relationship between humans and animals.

Practical information:

Perikweg 97- 7512 DP Enschede
Tel: +31 53 487 8585
E-mail: info@reisopera.nl
Internet site: www.reisopera.nl

Press contact:

Nathalie Edelenbos, Marketing and Communication
Manager
Tel: +31 6109 403 88
E-mail: n.edelenbos@reisopera.nl

Programme:

• **Saturday 8 May: Public presentation documentary / film material**

Nationale Reisopera will give their public in Enschede the chance to get to know the company and to experience the world of opera in general. What is an opera and how does a company work? Documentation and film material will be presented in a public space in the city centre of Enschede.

• **Sunday 9 May – ‘Wake-up call’ live broadcast via internet**

About *Wake*

The final production of the Nationale Reisopera season 2009 / 2010 will be *Wake*. *Wake* has been created and will be produced as a literary and musical monument to the memory of the firework disaster in Enschede. But the theme is universal. *Wake* is an ode to resilience. We take a look into the lives of people who experienced a disaster - how a community suffers, learns and revives itself.

Wake-up call

Wake-up call is an interactive session focusing on the relationship between the artistic purpose, the creative process and the musical character and contents of the opera *Wake*. The complete creative team will be present: Klaas de Vries, David Mitchell, Stephen Langridge, Conor Murphy and Rene Uijlenhoet; and from the Nationale Reisopera, Intendant Guus Mostart and Artistic Administrator Nicolas Mansfield.

Nationale Reisopera wants to share this special afternoon with everybody in Europe with an interest in contemporary opera: *Wake-up call* will be broadcast live on the internet.

Be introduced to the background and future of this ground-breaking production!

Netherlands Maastricht, Opera Zuid

Le nozze di Figaro slaat bruggen: het creëren van een productie die verschillende kunstdisciplines relateert: opera, theater en dans. Opera Zuid slaat ook bruggen doordat jonge theatermakers deze productie gezamenlijk maken en doordat ons publiek het twintigjarig jubileum mee viert.

Le nozze di Figaro crosses bridges: creating a production that relates different disciplines of art; opera, theatre and dance. Opera Zuid is also crossing bridges by having young theatre creators building a performance and having our audiences joining in celebrating the 20th anniversary of Opera Zuid.



Practical information:

Opera Zuid
Malpertuisplein 60 - 6217CD Maastricht
Tel: +31 43 321 01 66
E-mail: pr@operazuid.nl
Internet site: www.operazuid.nl

Press contact:

Annelie Bulsing, Marketing and Communications
Tel: +31 43 321 01 66
E-mail: annelie@operazuid.nl

Programme:

Opera Zuid will be celebrating its 20th anniversary together with the European Opera Days!

On this occasion, everyone will be invited to attend an open rehearsal of *Le nozze di Figaro* on 8 May from 10.30 to 13.30. The production created by young theatre directors crosses the bridge between different art forms: opera, theatre and dance.

There will also be guided tours of the theatre, the costume atelier and other workshops.

For additional information, please check the Opera Zuid website: www.operazuid.nl.

Norway
Oslo, Den Norske Opera & Ballett

Practical information:

Den Norske Opera & Ballett
Kirsten Falgstadts Plass 1 - 0106 Oslo
Tel: +47 47 91 54 02
Internet site: www.operaen.no

Press contact:

Sverre Gunnar Haga
E-mail: sverre.gunnar.haga@operaen.no

DEN
NORSKE
OPERA
&
BALLETT



Programme:

‘Opera? Who is actually going to the opera?’ – this is the question that Den Norske Opera & Ballett will be asking on Saturday 8 May with an art performance on the opera bridge leading from Oslo’s Central Station to the opera house.

The company will also offer an entertaining family introduction to *Around the World in 80 days*, premiering in May. Alongside guided tours of the theatre, lectures will be given on the main stage and a film night organised at the Education Centre.

Norway Tromsø, The World Opera

*De nye medier er ikke broer mellem mennesker og natur;
men de er selv natur*
Marshal McLuhan

*The new media are not bridges between man and nature;
they are nature*
Mashal McLuhan



World Opera Symposium 2009 in Denmark, performing Porgy and Bess with Lars Fosser as Porgy standing in Struer, Denmark and Jessica Harrison as Bess standing in New York. conducted by Maestro Niels Muus, Artistic Director of World Opera © Otto Anshus

Practical information:

World Opera, Music Conservatory
Krognesveien 33 - 9006 Tromsø
Tel: +47 46 67 37 36
E-mail: niels.windfeld.lund@uit.no
Internet site: www.theworldopera.org

Press contact:

Niels Windfeld Lund, General Manager
Tel: +47 46 6 737 36
E-mail: niels.windfeld.lund@uit.no

Programme:

One of the World Opera's primary missions is the creation and production of the distributed opera performance. In the distributed opera, artists interact across high speed networks in real time, performing with their peers via cutting-edge audio and video streaming technologies. As the ultimate multimedia art form, opera has historically pushed the boundaries of both technology and artistic practice. In creating the distributed opera stage, the World Opera intends to engage in this natural progression of artistic innovation. The inclusion of new media technologies in the milieu of traditional opera is the natural progression of aesthetic development. These are not merely new ways of presenting opera; they are, in fact, something entirely different.

In preparation for the World Opera's premiere performance of Per Nørgård's *Gilgamesh* in the Summer of 2012, students, faculty, and researchers from the University of Tromsø will conduct distributed rehearsals of the Danish composer's masterpiece. For these experiments, the locations within the opera narrative have been distributed into three separate performance spaces, creating an appropriate sense of detachment between key characters, while providing audiences with a choice of perspective from which to view the work.

On 14 and 15 May (one week later than the ordinary EOD), we will have experimental rehearsals in the Music Conservatory at the University of Tromsø, which will be open to the public. They will provide an interesting opportunity to peek into the future of opera performance.

For further information, please contact us at the provided address and check our website www.theworldopera.org.

Romania Bucharest, Bucharest National Opera



Practical information:

Bucharest National Opera
Bd Mihail Kogalniceanu 70-72, sect 5 - Bucharest
Tel: +4021 314 69 80
E-mail: onb@operanb.ro
Internet site: www.operanb.ro

Press contact:

Daniela Plopeanu, PR Officer
Tel: +4072 829 19 66
E-mail: plopeanu_daniela@yahoo.com

Programme:

On Sunday 9 May, Bucharest National Opera will organise the Opera Promenade, an evening open air concert in front of the theatre. In the first part, BNO soloists and its orchestra will perform some of the most famous arias and duets of the repertoire; in the second part, Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* will be performed with the participation of the chorus.

The Opera Promenade is an annual high quality performance with free access for music fans. From one edition to the next, the performance has registered a growing number of spectators, bringing together not only opera fans but also young people eager to find out more about this kind of music. Last year, over 4,000 people sat down on the theatre front lawn (some of them on stools they had brought for the purpose!) and were even oblivious of the few rain drops which fell in the middle of the performance, staying until the end, enraptured by opera music.

Romania Cluj- Napoca, Cluj-Napoca Romanian National Opera



A fi împreuna este un inceput, a ramane impreuna este un progres, a lucra impreuna este un succes

Henry Ford

Being together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.

Henry Ford



Practical information:

Cluj-Napoca Romanian National Opera
Piata Stefan cel Mare nr. 24 - Cluj-Napoca
Tel: +40 0264 597 175
E-mail: info@operacluj.ro
Internet site: www.operacluj.ro

Press contact:

Dan Badila, PR Officer
Tel: +40 0264 592 466
E-mail: marketing@operacluj.ro

Programme:

On Sunday 9 May at 18.30, Cluj-Napoca Romanian National Opera will cross a bridge to the other side of the Atlantic with a performance of *María de Buenos Aires*, a tango 'operita' in two parts by Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla with a libretto by Horacio Ferrer. The Argentinian bandoneon player Marcelo Nisinman will be the special guest of this production, which will also feature mezzo-soprano Iulia Merca, from the 'Gheorghe Dima' Music Academy of Cluj-Napoca, and actor Ionuț Caras, from the 'Lucian Blaga' National Theatre.

Serbia Belgrade, Madlenianum Opera & Theatre



Opera – univerzalni most medju kulturama

Opera – a universal bridge between cultures



Practical information:

Madlenianum Opera and Theatre
Zemun, Glavna 32 - Belgrade
Tel: +381 11 316 8394
E-mail : office@madlenianum.rs
Internet site: www.madlenianum.rs

Press contact:

Ingeborg Buter, Foreign Coordinator
Tel: + 381 11 316 8394
E-mail: office@madlenianum.rs

Programme:

During the weekend of 8 and 9 May, Madlenianum Opera & Theatre will celebrate opera as a universal bridge between cultures. Since its creation, Madlenianum Opera & Theatre has been promoting cooperation and harmony between cultures by inviting artists from various countries for its projects. For the European Opera Days, it will celebrate Serbia's cultural diversity.

The highlight of the celebration will be the opera *Mandragola*, that arose from bringing together the creativity of people from different cultural and religious backgrounds. On this occasion, Madlenianum Opera & Theatre will invite guests representing the cultural and religious diversity of Serbia: Serbs, Hungarians, Roms, Albanians, Slovaks, Ruthinians, Czechs, Romanians, Croats, Jews, Macedonians, Slovenians, Bulgarians, Germans, Armenians, etc. For some of them, it will be the first time will attend an opera performance.

Saturday 8 May

- 13.00: Opening speech by Mr Eduard Ille, Chairman of Madlenianum Opera & Theatre
- During the day: Workshops; Crafts Fair of handmade items typical of the guests' national heritage; painting exhibition

Sunday 9 May

- 13.00: Guided tour of the Zemun area, a district of Belgrade where twenty different cultural communities live together
- 15.00: Introduction of the Madlenianum's guests coming from various parts of Serbia, with a focus on Belgrade's specific historical role as a platform connecting cultures and religions throughout the centuries
- 18.00: Guided tour of the theatre and presentation of the various steps leading to the creation of an opera performance
- 19.30: Performance of *Mandragola*, an opera composed on request of Mrs Madlena Zepter by Ivan Jevtic, a Serbian composer living and working in Paris (world premiere December 2009). Conductors are Olivier Grangean (France) and Vesna Souc Trickovic (Serbia). The creative team is made up of Slobodan Unkovski (Macedonia), Dimitris Sotirou (Greece), Angelina Atlagic (Serbia) and Meta Hocevar (Slovenia)
- 23.00: After the performance, guests will have a chance to mingle with the artists around typical dishes and wines from all parts of Serbia

Slovenia Ljubljana, Slovene National Theatre Opera and Ballet



Prečkanje mostov in združevanje svetov

Crossing Bridges and Joining Worlds

Practical information:

Slovene National Theatre Opera and Ballet
Cankarjeva 11 - 1000 Ljubljana

Press contact :

Robert Celestina, Head of PR
Tel: +386 1241 1726
E-mail: robert.celestina@opera.si

Programme:

SNT Opera and Ballet Ljubljana will hold a series of round tables on the theme 'Crossing Bridges between different worlds'. Presentations and debates, attended by Slovene and international experts, will start in the second half of April 2010 in Ljubljana. Their main themes will be:

- **Opera in the 21st century**

Mixing of genres; differences between classical traditions and modern trends; the audience's expectations

- **The role of the Opera Studio**

Creating a bridge between professional ensembles and young artists; building connections between the national opera house and the educational system in Slovenia; promoting modern trends

- **Cooperation between Opera Houses**

Means, new trends, co-productions, consequences of the economic crisis



Views of the Raval district, where the Liceu is located



Productions of the Liceu © Antoni Bofill

Practical information:

Gran Teatre del Liceu
La Rambla 51-59 - 08002 Barcelona
Tel: +34 93 485 9914
E-mail: visites@liceubarcelona.cat
Internet site: www.liceubarcelona.cat

Press contacts:

Adela Rocha / Carme Urgell
Tel: +34 93 485 99 00 (ext. 972 and 911)
E-mails: adela.rocha@liceubarcelona.cat
carme.urgell@liceubarcelona.cat

Programme:

• **The Liceu opens its doors**

The Liceu opens its doors to all citizens wishing to visit the theatre. This provides the opportunity to bring theatre closer to those who do not live opera as part of their everyday lives, but who, as citizens of Barcelona and Catalonia, wish to get closer to this institution so important to the cultural life of this country.

Place: Theatre

Schedule: 10am to 10pm

• **The archives of the Liceu in the Foyer**

In celebration of the European Opera Days, the Liceu opens the theatre's archives to all opera lovers. On 9 May, throughout the whole day in the Foyer of the Theatre, people can watch two of the most popular performances of the last seasons: *L'elisir d'amore* and *Tosca*. Between the screening of these two operas, a summary of all artistic activity of the 2008-2009 season (concerts, opera performances, chamber music concerts in the foyer and children's sessions) will be shown.

Place: Foyer of the Theatre

Schedule: to be confirmed

• **The Liceu and young singers**

In collaboration with the music conservatories in Barcelona, some of their most talented singing students will prepare short programmes to be performed in one of the Foyers of the Theatre. Thus, during the entire day, live music in the theatre will accompany the visitors.

Place: Mirror's Hall (Foyer 1st floor)

Schedule: 10am to 10pm

• **The Liceu travels with you**

On screens scattered throughout the metro network of Barcelona, different images of the artistic activity of the last seasons will be shown, as well as fragments of the productions of the Liceu. Via this activity, the Liceu crosses the bridges to society, opera being present all day long in the Barcelona metro.

Place: Metro network of Barcelona

Schedule: 5.00am to 2.00am (the following day)

Sweden Göteborg, GöteborgsOperan



GÖTEBORGSOPERAN

Med stora föreställningar övertygar GöteborgsOperan gång på gång. Man satsar både på klassiska operaföreställningar, moderna baletter och publikdragande musikal. Och kvalitén är alltid hög.
alltomgoteborg.se

With great performances the Göteborg Opera satisfies time and time again. They invest in classic opera productions, modern ballets and popular musicals. And the quality is always high.
alltomgoteborg.se



In this production The Göteborg Opera Ballet worked together with all three of the other artistic groups in the building – orchestra, choir and soloists – in what became an extraordinarily beautiful performance and a fantastic success among both critics and public © Mats Bäcker

Practical information:

GöteborgsOperan
Christina Nilssons Gata - 41104 Göteborg
Tel: +46 31 10 80 00
E-mail: info@opera.se
Internet site: www.opera.se

Press contact:

Christina Bjerkander
Tel: +46 31 10 8035
E-mail: christina.bjerkander@opera.se

Programme:

GöteborgsOperan chooses to cross bridges with three performances reflecting the diversity of their repertoire:

- Saturday 8 May at 18.00

Main stage: *Metamorfos*, two new productions for the dancers of GöteborgsOperan, choreographed by Johan Inger and Alexander Ekman

Small stage: *The last five years*, musical with music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

- Sunday 9 May at 15.00

Main stage: Richard Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

United Kingdom Aldeburgh, English Touring Opera

ENGLISH
TOURING
OPERA

Cross bridges, and harness the creative energy of the rivers and roads beneath



*One Day Two Dawns: ETO community opera at Hall for Cornwall Truro, May 2009. Bridging communities, arts companies, disciplines and abilities
© Adam Gifford*

Practical information:

English Touring Opera (Administration)
52-54 Rosebery Avenue - London EC1R 4RP
Tel: +44 20 7833 2555
E-mail: admin@englishtouringopera.org.uk
Internet site: www.englishtouringopera.org.uk

Press contact:

Tim Yealland, Artistic Associate Education
Tel: +44 20 7833 2555
E-mail: tim.yealland@englishtouringopera.org.uk

Programme:

English Touring Opera will perform two pieces at Snape Maltings in Suffolk on 8 May, including a new commission for children. Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will be performed in the Maltings at 19.30 in James Conway's superb production. The designer is Joanna Parker and the conductor ETO principal conductor Michael Rosewell. The opera's cast, which includes Jonathan Peter Kenny as Oberon and Andrew Slater as Bottom, is joined by eight local children who play Britten's fairies. A pre-show talk introducing the opera will take place at 18.30.

For younger children ETO proposes a brand new work by Kate Pearson, also based on Shakespeare's famous play. *The Starry Welkin* is set in the magic forest of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and follows the entwined story of Oberon, Titania and Bottom as they struggle through the strangest of moonlit nights. Written for children aged 4-7, the piece is a perfect introduction to key instruments of the orchestra, to opera and to Shakespeare. The music and the design by Lou Wilson will immerse the children in the sensual and comic world of *Dream*, with a little help from a puppet Puck. Bird calls, magic lights, giant canopies and children's songs contribute to an exceptionally strong new work. The piece lasts one hour and is both very accessible and fully interactive. The performance is at 12.00 in the Britten Studio.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, both play and opera, offers the perfect opportunity to introduce children to opera and theatre, not only as audience members but also as actors and singers. ETO strives to find new ways to link the professional and the amateur, the mature and the young, in meaningful and creative ways.

Tickets for both performances are available through the Snape Maltings box office.

Practical information:

Wales Millennium Centre
Bute Place
Cardiff, CF10 5AL.
Tel: +44 29 2063 5000
E-mail: enquiries@wno.org.uk
Internet site: www.wno.org.uk

Press contact:

Penny Simpson, Head of Media
Tel: +44 29 20 635 036
E-mail: penny.simpson@wno.org.uk

Programme:

Welsh National Opera will be making its home at Wales Millennium Centre ring with the sound of music on Saturday 8 May.

There will be performances from 10-14 year old members of WNO Singing Club, and in the bars and restaurants visitors will be treated to guerrilla opera - undercover members of WNO Chorus singing impromptu scenes from *Carmen*.

Visitors will also see some props from productions together with screenings of documentary work WNO has commissioned – including *Surf Tailz*, in which young men from the Welsh Valleys were introduced to opera and surfing and *Opera Express*, a unique art and song-writing project with recovering addicts, which culminated in a very special and emotional performance on a train.

United Kingdom Inverness, Scottish Opera

For some people, trying opera for the first time feels like crossing a ravine on a bridge with no hand-rail.

Scottish Opera aims to make it easier to cross the bridge to that first experience of the dramatic, thrilling, exhilarating, life-affirming art form that is opera.



Practical information:

Scottish Opera (Administration)
39 Elmbank Crescent - Glasgow, G2 4PT
Tel: +44 141 248 4567
E-mail: information@scottishopera.org.uk
Internet site: www.scottishopera.org.uk

Press contact:

Kerryn Hurley, Press Manager
Tel: +44 141 242 0511
E-mail: kerryn.hurley@scottishopera.org.uk

Programme:

On the European Opera Days, Scottish Opera will be in Inverness performing *La bohème*. As well as the performances, Scottish Opera will propose a show for the very young, and a free taster for newcomers to opera.

BabyO introduces 6-18 month-old babies and their parents to a world of sound and song. This is an interactive sensory experience in which singers create a magical musical soundscape, themed around a secret garden full of familiar images - ducks, bees, wellies, water and umbrellas. It has been designed as a first step for parent and child towards connecting vocal sounds with movement, colour and textures to assist in the infant's aural and visual development: musical sound helping to build a bridge between parent and child, towards their emotional and intellectual bonding.

La bohème Unwrapped is a free hour long taster that lets people see what the show is all about. With help from the Orchestra of Scottish Opera, singers, and backstage crew, the audience is guided through the plot, sees some key scenes, and is let into some of the theatrical secrets behind the production. By offering a free, shortened taster, that explains some of the idiosyncrasies of opera and reveals the work behind the scenes, Scottish Opera aims to provide an easy first step into the world of opera, helping newcomers cross the bridge to experiencing this art for the first time.

Performance dates:

- *La bohème*

Thursday 6 and Saturday 8 May at 19.15, Eden Court Theatre, Inverness

- *BabyO*

Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 May at The Jim Love Studio, Eden Court Theatre, Inverness
Times: 10.30, 11.30 and 13.30 daily.

- *La bohème Unwrapped*

Friday 7 May at 18.00, Eden Court Theatre, Inverness

United Kingdom Leeds, Opera North



*Opera is a bridge to your emotions
Opera bridges all the art forms to create a powerful emotional experience
which lots of people from all walks of life can love*



The Adventures of Pinocchio © Clive Barda

Practical information:

Grand Theatre
46 New Briggate - Leeds LS1 6NU
Tel: +44 844 848 2720
E-mail: info@operanorth.co.uk
Internet site: www.operanorth.co.uk

Press contact:

Lindsey Porter
Tel: +44 113 223 3526
E-mail: lindsey.porter@operanorth.co.uk

Programme:

Opera North is taking opera to the streets of Leeds, with singers giving impromptu performances around the city.

On Saturday 8 May, the company is making 100 *La bohème* tickets available to Leeds residents who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend. Families will be exploring fantastical opera in the Howard Assembly Room at Opera North. Inspired by the return of its highly acclaimed production of *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, people of all ages can have fun with singing from 11.00 until 13.00, and help bring Pinocchio and friends to life through puppetry and music from 14.00 to 16.00. At 18.30, a screening of Ingmar Bergman's film, *The Magic Flute*, recreates Mozart's 'people's' opera with all the exuberance of an eighteenth century theatre production – both on and off stage. Young people will also experience a rehearsal of Dvořák's *Rusalka* on 7 May through Opera North Education.

Full details of events and prices are available at www.operanorth.co.uk.

United Kingdom London, Royal Opera House



Practical information:

Royal Opera House
Covent Garden - WC2E 9DD London
Tel: +44 20 7240 1200
Internet site: www.roh.org.uk

Programme:

The Royal Opera House's commitment to enabling as many people as possible to engage with its work has resulted in it developing one of the most extensive Education programmes of any opera house in the world. Its Insight Programme alone comprises over eighty events a year, in which artists, staff and invited specialists enable both newcomers and experienced opera and ballet-goers to deepen their understanding and enjoyment of ROH's artforms.

On Saturday 8 May as part of that commitment ROH will be offering singing, music and drama workshops to 60 participants (aged between 9-12 years), who will be starting out as the members of ROH's first Youth Opera Company. This will be the first time that they and their families will come together as a group to experience the work of professional ROH artists, as they begin crossing the bridge from being newcomers to ROH to becoming part of its artistic life.

The participatory *La traviata* workshops will be led by ROH's Education David Stevenson (Director) and Jette Parker Young Artists: Steven Moore (Conductor), Ji-Min Park as Alfredo, Simona Mihai as Violetta, Kai Ruutel as Flora, Changhan Lim as d'Obigny, Robert Anthony Gardner as Gastone.

At the same time, crossing the bridge from occasional opera audience members to becoming a regular supporters, a group of recently joined Friends of Covent Garden will have the opportunity to attend a chaired Post-Performance discussion in the Crush Room at the ROH after the general rehearsal of *La traviata*. Taking part will be members of the cast and production team including Yves Abel (conductor) and Paul Higgins (revival director).

Partners



Opera Europa



Opera Europa is the European association of opera houses and festivals. Its membership encompasses 114 opera companies in 35 countries.

Opera Europa acts as a platform for discussion and collaboration on subjects of common concern to opera professionals, and encourages specialist forums to focus on specific areas of expertise.

Five principle areas help to define Opera Europa's goals for its members and their work in OPERA:

- Open debate – increased benefit of working together to seek solutions
- Public – engagement with attracting new audiences from all parts of society
- Economics – seeking to generate more income from all sources
- Resources – seeking to generate good practice in managing resources
- Artistic creativity – encouraging the circulation of new work

Opera Europa has therefore developed a range of professional services for its members' use, such as specialist forums, research databases and expert consultancy. But Opera Europa also supports initiatives for the art form and the wider audience, as a partner of the European Opera-directing Prize, and as the coordinator of the European Opera Days.

Following the first edition of the European Opera Days in 2007, Opera Europa has launched the OPASS, European Opera Passport (www.opass.eu), encouraging young cultural tourists up to 30 years old to travel through Europe and enjoy opera.

For more information about Opera Europa and its activities, visit www.opera-europa.org.

RESEO



RESEO is the European Network for Opera and Dance Education.

Its strength lies in the number and diversity of its membership, which currently comprises over sixty opera houses, dance companies as well as cross-arts cultural structures of all sizes from 21 countries in Europe and beyond.

RESEO seeks to develop and promote the practice of opera and dance education and outreach in Europe.

The network is driven by five key aims:

- As the principal platform for opera and dance educators in Europe, it aims at facilitating exchange and knowledge-transfer.
- To be a valuable research and resource centre for the opera and dance sector in Europe.
- To initiate artistic collaboration, experimentation, risk-taking and innovative new work across Europe.
- To raise the public profile of opera and dance education within the cultural sector, to policy makers and to the wider public.
- To continually develop its organisational structure to meet the varying needs of its membership.

RESEO encourages mutually enriching exchange between education professionals, through bi-annual conferences, meetings, exclusive invitations to projects and performances and an active programme of project-based work. Its internet site provides a showcase for members works and facilitates Europe-wide communication. A regular newsletter keeps members informed of cutting-edge issues and programmes in the field of opera, dance and arts education.

In 2010, RESEO's spring conference in Porto will focus on Opera, Dance and Disability (31 March-3 April 2010, Casa da Musica). The autumn conference in Berlin shall centre on Orchestra Education (21 – 23 October 2010, Komische Oper).

RESEO receives structural funding via the European Commission's Culture Programme.

For more information on RESEO and its activities, visit www.reseo.org.

Réunion des Opéras de France



La Réunion des Opéras de France currently brings together 25 opera houses, stages or opera festivals.

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

La Réunion des Opéras de France is committed to the defence and promotion of operatic and choreographic art in all their forms. It carries out its missions focusing on information, coordination and valorisation.

In order to pursue these goals, it develops a resource centre on lyric art:

- Dissemination of information for opera houses and the general public via the association's website (www.rof.fr)
- Collection of financial data, theatre's activity related information, job- and audience-related enquiries in the field of opera
- Project of a database on operatic productions in French theatres in partnership with the French Ministry for Culture and Communication and other institutions (Bibliothèque-Musée de l'Opéra, National Centre for Scientific Research).

It is also an encounter and exchange platform for opera professionals as well as their mouthpiece vis-à-vis public authorities:

- Joint actions (professional meetings, workshops, life-long learning actions...)
- Common tools (data collection on artistic programmes and others)
- Common services (legal, social, tax-related consultancy)
- Joint decisions (on rentals, per diems, etc)

It contributes to the promotion of opera by all possible means in order to foster better understanding and access to the largest possible audience:

- Support of editorial projects, especially for young audiences
- Support of highly specialised publications
- Specific actions like *Tous à l'Opéra!* (www.tous-a-lopera.fr)

For more information about la Réunion des Opéras de France and its activities, visit www.rof.fr.



Tous à l'Opéra!

On 17 February 2007, for the first time ever, 25 opera houses in France decided to jointly open their doors to the public on the same day.

This common initiative took place in the framework of the first **European Opera Days**, in which a hundred opera houses throughout Europe participated, from Paris to Moscow and from Lisbon to Helsinki.

All these houses aspired to present the vitality of this unique genre which unites manifold art forms in itself. The year of the first edition, 2007, also marked the 400th anniversary of the first masterpiece of opera, *Orfeo* by Monteverdi.

Ambassador in France of this first edition, unprecedented in the history of opera, was **Natalie Dessay**. She declared at a press conference: 'I feel like sharing something, not only with an experienced audience, and to say that beauty is not for the elite only'.

Here lies the ambition of this event: to further promote and share the art of opera and its houses, centres of creation and production, which come alive thanks to the artistic and technical skills and experience of all those involved; to assert their purpose as resource pools - from creation to artistic diffusion, from education for children to the support of vocational training and professional career paths.

Tous à l'Opéra! is an invitation to all those who have never dared enter an opera house, an invitation to discover this unique place in the world of live performance thanks to the 6,500 professionals working in this field - artists, stagehands, lighting engineers, props persons -, bringing together music, dance, and stage design and engineering – to serve and delight the public.

ÓPERA XXI



ÓPERA 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.

ÓPERA 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.

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

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

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

For more information about Ópera XXI and its activities, visit www.operaxxi.com.

United Kingdom's National Opera Co-ordinating Committee

The National Opera Co-ordinating Committee (NOCC) exists to co-ordinate 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 co-ordinating 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 co-operation between its members and partners, NOCC aims to avoid geographical clashes of repertoire and touring and enables the national co-ordination of press nights.

NOCC is the networking forum for the UK opera sector to meet and share issues of common importance. NOCC has co-ordinated the plans of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, English National Opera, English Touring Opera, Glyndebourne, Opera North, Scottish Opera and Welsh National Opera for the UK's response to European Opera Days 2010 and has actively encouraged a national press campaign to promote the European Opera Days to the UK media.

CONTACT DETAILS



Contact:
Anne-Line Duplan
press@operadays.eu
+32 2217 6705
www.operadays.eu

The European Opera Days are a joint initiative by:

Opera Europa

Rue Léopold 23 – B- 1000 Brussels
+32 2217 6705
www.opera-europa.org

Contact:
Anne-Line Duplan – anne-line@opera-europa.org

RESEO

Rue Léopold 23 – B- 1000 Brussels
+ 32 2217 6817
www.reseo.org

Contact:
Isabel Joly – isabel@reseo.org
Katherine Heid – katherine@reseo.org

In partnership with:

Réunion des Opéras de France

41 rue du Colisée – F- 75008 Paris
+33 142 56 49 70
www.rof.fr
www.tous-a-lopera.fr

Contact:
Laurence Lamberger-Cohen - laurence.lamberger-cohen@rof.fr
Paola Scotton - paola.scotton@rof.fr
Ludivine Vantourout – ludivine.vantourout@rof.fr

Ópera XXI (Spain)

c/ José María Olabarra 2-4, bajo – E- 48001 Bilbao
+34 94 661 1253
www.operaxxi.com

Contact:
Arantza Junquera - secretaria@abao.org

National Opera Coordinating Committee (United Kingdom)

Contact:
Gillian Brierley - gillian.brierley@glyndebourne.com
+44 1273 815 020