

World Opera Day 25 October 2019

Opera Europa, Ópera Latinoamérica and OPERA America, supported by national and international cultural organisations, will see opera companies from around the world come together on 25 October, the birthdays of Georges Bizet and Johann Strauss.

World Opera Day is an awareness campaign for the value of opera for society, as a prime example of an artistic exercise which can contribute to a healthy mind, as important as a healthy body. Through developing one's emotional pallet, encouraging empathy, allowing a space for public critical debate on stage regarding politics and values, Opera is a means of experience and expression that can grow responsible citizens for society. It also fosters creativity and tolerance.

Ambassadors, including British comedian and writer Stephen Fry, Canadian singer-composer Rufus Wainwright, American mezzo Raehann Bryce-Davis and Chinese conductor Lü Jia, share their message of faith in the value of opera for society.

The initiative was officially launched by Nicholas Payne, director of Opera Europa, during the association's autumn conference at Opéra national du Rhin, with Ernesto Ottone from UNESCO, Tobias Biancone from International Theatre Institute, Marc Scorca from OPERA America, Edilia Gänz from FEDORA, Marc Grandmontagne from Deutscher Bühnenverein, Jiachen Zhao from the National Centre for the Performing Arts Beijing, Georges Isaakyan from the Russian Association for Theatre Music, Christina Loewen from Opera.ca, Laurence Lamberger-Cohen from Réunion des Opéras de France, Ignacio García-Belenguer from Opera XXI and Julia Lagazuhère from Opera for Peace.

Jean-Yves Kaced (FEDORA), Edilia Gänz (FEDORA), Julia Lagahuzère (Opera for Peace), Nicholas Payne (Opera Europa), Jicheng Zhao (NCPA Beijing), Marc Scorca (OPERA America), Tobias Biancone (International Theatre Institute, Laurence Lamberger-Cohen (ROF), Marc Grandmontagne (Deutscher Bühnenverein), Christina Loewen (Opera.ca), Peter Spuhler (Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe), Audrey Jungers (Opera Europa), Ernesto Ottone (UNESCO), George Isaakyan (Association of Music Theatres Russia).

Ernesto Ottone (UNESCO): "It is important to create a World Opera Day - it is because you have to remember always and for all the communities that, in the end, these are the spaces where we can get together in our diversity and find something that is important with our neighbours because we have common roots from all around the world."

Marc Scorca (OPERA America): "We have to make people curious for opera. Not everybody is going to love opera, but they have to love what opera companies do... inside and outside the opera house. Opera is about globalisation, it's about the universalities of the emotions."

Tobias Biancone (International Theatre Institute): "The beauty and the power that is inherent to opera should not be kept for the few but should be shared with the world. A dedicated day is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness for that."

Marc Grandmontagne (Deutscher Bühnenverein): "The audience can just be human when they come to the opera house, they don't have to play a role. They can come together with society. We can build bridges into the world." From New National Theatre Tokyo and Royal Opera House Muscat, to Santa Barbara Opera and Royal Opera House Covent Garden, with The Israeli Opera Tel Aviv and Moscow Children's Opera, and many others in between, events to honour World Opera Day take place from far East to far West of the world. The initiative will also have a strong online resonance.

OperaVision, the free streaming platform co-financed by the European Union's Creative Europe programme, offers a dedicated [programme](#) on 25, 26 and 27 October, featuring five of the most popular Opera titles: Puccini's [La bohème](#) from NCPA Mumbai, Bizet's [Carmen](#) from NCPA Beijing, Strauss' [Die Fledermaus](#) from the Wiener Staatsoper, Mozart's [Don Giovanni](#) from Teatro dell'Opera di Roma and Rossini's [The Barber of Seville](#) from Teatro Municipal Santiago. World Opera Day also sees the launch of OperaVision's partnership with NCPA Beijing for streaming in China.

Website: www.worldoperaday.com

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