



Camerata Nuova e.V.
Chairman: Armin Kretschmar

Luisenstraße 24
D - 65185 Wiesbaden
Tel.: +49 (0)611 - 16028 - 50
Fax: +49 (0)611 - 16028 - 51
camerata.nuova@t-online.de
www.camerata-nuova.com

Press Release

**Two first prizes awarded at 10th European Opera-directing Prize in 2018.
Awards go to the polish director Karolina Sofulak and Gerald Jones from Great Britain**

The winning concepts will be presented at the state theatre in Mainz and the Festival Holland Park in London

Wiesbaden, 2. Juli 2018

The polish director **Karolina Sofulak** and the british director **Gerald Jones** have each been awarded the **10th European Opera-directing Prize 2018 at the opera house in zurich**. These two directors and their respective teams have been able to win the first prize in this competition. No other prizes were awarded.

The first prize has been endowed with 20.000 Euros and furthermore included a staging at an european opera house. **Gerald Jones** and his designer **Cecile Tremolieres** will be showing their victorious concept at the **state theatre in Mainz**. **Karolina Sofulak** and her designer **Georg Leigh** will be presenting their concept at the **Holland Park Festival in London**.

The directors convinced the jury, chaired by **Annilese Miskimmon, director of Den Norske Opera & Ballet in Oslo**, with their respective concepts of the opera "Manon Lescaut", by Giacomo Puccinis, and a very strong scenic implementation in the work with the singers. "Both teams were absolutely equivalent. Having to decide for one of the teams would not have been fair.", said the chairman of the jury.

The **chairman of Camerata Nuova in Wiesbaden, Armin Kretschmar**, and the **director of the Opera Europa in Brussels, Nicholas Payne**, who hosts the European Opera-directing Prize, listened to the advice of the jury and awarded the first two prizes.

This year all of the four teams presented themselves on a very high level in the final round, said Kretschmar. He affilates this to the semi-finale, which took place in March in Birmingham, where all of the ten candidates have been invited to. For this reason, the semi-finale is supposed to be retained.



214 candidates from 32 nations applied for the 10th European Opera-directing Prize and submitted a concept for the opera "Manon Lescaut", by Giacomo Puccini. Ten candidates were entitled to present their concepts orally in front of the jury at the semi-finale. Four of the candidates of the finale round were able to develop a scene from their concept on the rehearsal stage in Zurich, including two singers from the ensemble of the state theatre in Mainz.

Following the jury of the 10th European Opera-directing Prize in Zurich:

Annilese Miskimmon (chairman of the jury)	Artistic Director and Intendant Den Norske Opera & Ballet Oslo
Renata Borowska-Juszczynska	General Manager Poznan Opera House, Poland
James Clutton	Director of Opera Opera Holland Park, London
Richard Willacy	Executive Director Birmingham Opera Company
Stefan Vogel	Opera General Manager Staatstheater, Mainz

The finale of the European Opera-directing Prize was connected to the summer conference of the Opera Europa at the opera house in Zurich.

The European Opera-directing Prize is being awarded every two years by the Camerata Nuova in cooperation with the Opera Europa – a combination of 188 european opera houses and cultural instiutions.

It is the only greater Opera-directing competition, which only exists in Germany at the moment. In 2001 it has been hosted for the first time. The chairman of the jury has been Klaus Zehelein. Newcomer Directors and directing teams, until an age of 35 years, can apply for the award. The purpose of the competition is to support contemporary Opera-directing and to offer a forum for young promising talents. A lot of the awards winners are working international successful as directors, stage – and costume designers. The 10th European Opera-directing Prize is under the patronage of the Director of the Hessian State Chancellery Wiesbaden, State Minister Axel Wintermeyer.

Further information about the European Opera-directing Prize: www.camerata-nuova.com