



Janáček's *Jenůfa*

General information & Application guidelines

Applicants are advised to read this document in conjunction with the information available online at:
<https://opera-europa.org/news/european-opera-directing-prize-15th-edition>

The 15th European Opera-directing Prize gives the opportunity to a creative team under the age of 35 to stage a production of Janáček's *Jenůfa* at Opéra national de Nancy-Lorraine, under the leadership of General Director Matthieu Dussovillez. The winning team will be engaged to create a new production of Janáček's *Jenůfa* during the 2028-2029 season.

To apply

Please return the following documents by 1 December at 11:59 PM CET
to eop@opera-europa.org

- The application form
- A single separate PDF document (maximum 8 pages) in English, totally anonymous (no names or identifying marks), presenting the concept with
 - o A one page summary (up to 500 words)
 - o Up to 7 further pages (maximum 2500 words), including illustrations

Please note: A full storyboard is not required for initial applications, we simply encourage applicants to set out their concept as clearly and compellingly as possible. Applications must consist of original production concepts, not the relaunch of existing concepts. Production concepts should be designed to engage experienced opera lovers, infrequent visitors to opera and new audiences alike.

Process, deadlines and important dates

By 1 December 2026	Applicants return their completed application form and concept presentation to eop@opera-europa.org by 1 December at 11:59 PM CET. They will receive a confirmation of receipt by 8 December. Partial applications or applications that do not respect the guidelines will not be considered.
1 March 2027	Applicants will be notified of the first step of the selection process, resulting in a shortlist of up to 10 creative teams being invited to the semi-final.
19-22 May 2027	The Semi-finals will be held in Rotterdam on 21 and 22 May 2027. Semi-finalist directors and designers will also be invited to attend the Career Management Course, part of Opera Europa Next Generation, from 19 to 21 May 2027 in Rotterdam (attendance optional).
By 25 May 2027	Semi-finalists will be notified of the second step of the selection process, resulting in the choice of four finalist creative teams being invited to the final.
9-13 November 2027	Finals in London, during which up to four creative teams will work with singers on a given scene of <i>Jenůfa</i> The Prizes will be awarded during the Opera Europa autumn conference, which finalists are invited to attend.
9 March 2029	Premiere of winning production in Nancy

Jury

- Thomas de Mallet Burgess, Artistic Opera Director of Oopera Balletti, Helsinki, Finland (EOP Jury Chair)
- Matthieu Dussouillez, General Manager and Artistic Director of Opéra national de Nancy-Lorraine, France (Host Theatre)
- Martin Glaser, General Director of National Theater Brno, Czech Republic
- Caroline Wielpütz, Casting Director of Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Düsseldorf-Duisburg, Germany
- Antonella Zedda, General Manager of Opéra de Dijon, France
- Ilaria Lanzino, Stage director and EOP-Winner in 2020
- Ex officio: Karen Stone, Executive Director of Opera Europa

Costs, fees and prizes

There is no application fee to submit a concept to the European Opera-directing Prize.

Opera Europa will provide accommodation for up to two members of each team participating in the semi-finals. Opera Europa will reimburse semi-finalists' travel expenses on presentation of valid receipts.

Opera Europa will reimburse travel and accommodation costs for teams participating in the finals (up to a maximum of €2000 per team).

All finalist teams will receive a cash prize of €2.500 as recognition of their preparation work for the concept of *Jenůfa* and their achievement in reaching the final. This is a cash prize per team, not per person.

The overall winners will be engaged by Opéra national de Nancy-Lorraine to stage a production of Janáček's *Jenůfa* as part of the 2028/29 season. Their contract will be negotiated directly with the Opéra national de Nancy-Lorraine.

Artistic, financial & Technical considerations

Opéra national de Nancy-Lorraine will choose the team to produce their production of *Jenůfa* among the finalists of the European Opera-directing Prize, with input from the jury.

Opéra national de Nancy-Lorraine will hire the creative team according to their current fee and contractual practices.

Opéra national de Nancy-Lorraine will be in charge of casting the production.

The winning concept will have taken into account the technical facilities available to them (see Technical Guidelines document, available online), alongside the given financial and human resources available.