

opera europa

CONFERENCE

The professional association of opera houses and festivals in Europe | De vereniging van operahuizen en festivals in Europa

CREATION
Antwerp, 25-28 April 2019



Creation and creativity

Creation and creativity lie at the heart of any artistic project. So, while Opera Europa will continue to address practical business and operational matters, it is time to focus on artists who create the material experienced by our audiences.

Our spring conference therefore brings together composers, librettists and directors in dialogue with our member producers and managers. Its aim is to discover what both parties most desire from the encounter. It also asks questions about the nature of opera today, and how it may find an audience.

Several of our specialist groups have volunteered to participate in the debate. Unsurprisingly, the **Artistic Administration** forum is at the centre of the process. Its members will arrive early to apply themselves to several practical matters, including the development of reliable and comprehensive tools for casting and planning.

Marketing & Communications are essential to delivering new work to the public, so that group will be integrated into the programme from Thursday afternoon. Equally, so is **Education**.

Some of the most innovative work today is engendered by independent producers. Opera Europa's Junior membership category was introduced in order to encompass this vital sector. A new **Independent Producers** forum has been formed, and will be launched during the conference.

Antwerp is a perfect location for such a gathering, an ancient city with a modern dynamism. Our host **Opera Vlaanderen**'s biennial Opera 21 Festival guarantees to offer a wide variety of new opera during an intensive few days, first at the Opera House, then on Saturday at De Singel.

Nicholas Payne

Independent Producers

It is impossible to imagine the history of opera without the concept of independent producing. Without alternative attitudes towards creation and production as manifested by Handel in London, Schikaneder in Vienna, or Diaghilev in Paris, to name but a few, some of the iconic works of classical repertoire would have never been realised.

Just as the birth of opera took place outside of any established theatre structure (Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*), the contemporary opera creation and presentation processes increasingly more often take place outside of the traditional opera houses. Small and mid-scale production structures and organisations are often at the core of this new development. In this field, the innovative artistic vision inspires often development of alternative business models, and vice versa – the necessity of new sources of funding triggers out-of-the-box thinking and results in new formats for opera presenting. Thanks to smaller organisational structures and flexible operational processes, the independent producers have the potential to acquire knowledge and innovate fast in order to thrive and pioneer in the rapidly changing artistic and social environment. Both in the movie and non-classical music industries, the idea of independent producing has been already recognised as a vital element of the respective fields.

The newly established Independent Producers Forum of Opera Europa aims at giving a platform for exchange and development of expertise in the field of opera creation that

takes place outside of the traditional opera house infrastructures, or in partnership between the opera houses and independent producers. By researching the dynamics of collaboration between traditional opera structures (houses, festivals) and the independent producers, this Forum's goal is to propose new models for alliances within the opera ecosystem that would be beneficial for all involved parties and for the further development of opera.

The forum's steering group consists of:

- **Krystian Lada** / The Airport Society / Brussels (Belgium)
- **Alice Gubler** / OPERA2DAY / The Hague (The Netherlands)
- **Florian Bonneau** / Opéra in situ / Paris (France)
- **Emilien Rossier** / Nouvel Opéra Fribourg / Fribourg (Switzerland)
- **Magalie Bouchet** / T&M / Paris (France)
- **Thomas Desi** / Musiktheatertage / Vienna (Austria)
- **Leena Malkki** / Operafabriken / Malmö (Sweden)

Krystian Lada

Pre-conference meeting of the Artistic Administration forum

Wednesday 24 April – Opera Vlaanderen

14.30		Registration opens in Foyer +3
15.00	AA	Welcome by the steering group Led by Aurore Aubouin (Brussels)
15.15	AA	Table talks about contracts (part I) Rehearsal fees, audio-visual rights, penalties, presence/absence regulations, cancellation clauses Introduced by Damià Carbonell (Amsterdam) and Katja Tammela (Helsinki)
16.15		Coffee break in Bar +4
16.45	AA	Table talks about contracts (part II) Complimentary tickets, travel and accommodation refund regulations
17.30	AA	Debriefing Led by Stephanie Wippel (Wiener Staatsoper) and Moritz Reissenberger (Essen)
18.00		End of day's sessions
19.30		<i>Les Bienveillantes</i> Music by Hèctor Parra, libretto by Händl Klaus, conducted by Peter Rundel and directed by Calixto Bieito

Thursday 25 April – Opera Vlaanderen

09.30	AA	Casting Tools, with database presentation (Opera Europa members only) Led by Henning Ruhe (Munich)
11.00		Coffee break in Bar +4
11.30	AA	Discussion on future meetings Moderated by Moritz Reissenberger (Essen)
13.00		Lunch in Bar +4

Les Bienveillantes © Opera Vlaanderen



Programme

The programme for Opera Europa's spring conference is launched by a series of lively, and in some cases illustrated, interventions by creative artists, after which there is a choice of evening events. Friday centres on the two-sided question: what do such artists expect from us managers; what do we want from them? It also encompasses the annual General Assembly, when members must take important decisions about future directions for our association. On Friday evening, you may experience Opera Vlaanderen's new opera commission, or three other options. Saturday explores different ways in which new creations may engage with the public.

GD	General & Artistic Directors
AA	Artistic Administration
ED	Education
MC	Marketing & Communications
IP	Independent Producers

This programme was accurate at time of publication;
a final version will be given out upon registration

Thursday 25 April – Opera Vlaanderen

14.30	Registration opens	
	Foyer +4	MC Welcome coffee to the Marketing & Communications forum Led by Ing-Marie Persmo (Göteborg) and Aline Chif
15.30	Main Auditorium	Creative Keynotes: Composers, Librettists, Dramaturgy Calixto Bieito (director) on creating new operas Orlando Gough (composer) and Timothy Knapman (librettist) on their project <i>We have always lived in the Castle</i> Julian Grant (composer) on <i>Burke & Hare</i> Tod Machover (composer) on <i>Schoenberg in Hollywood</i> Meredith Oakes on working with composers as librettist and dramaturg Laura Lee Everett on Opera America's New Works Forum
18.00	End of day's sessions	
18.00	Foyer +3	MC World Opera Advocacy campaign Brainstorming led by Nicholas Payne and Célia Grau
	Foyer +4	ED Welcome to the Education forum (+4) Led by Lauri Pokkinen (Helsinki) and Audrey Jungers
	Bar +4	Welcome to new members and new participants in bar With Renata Borowska (Poznań), David Collins (Leeds), Mathieu Jouvin (Paris TCE) and Susanna Werger
18.45		
20.00	tbd	Welcome reception and walking dinner
	deSingel	PLAY – Court of Choice Liesa Van der Aa & One Trick Pony
	Toneelhuis	Sylvia An Pierlé, Fabrice Murgia & Cie Artara

Friday 26 April – Opera Vlaanderen

09.00	Registration opens		
09.30	Rehearsal room +5	Presentation of the new Operabase By Sune Hjerrild and Jan Pilgaard Carlsen (Truelinked) with questions moderated by Henning Ruhe (Munich)	
	Chorus room +5	AAED Community projects: how to work with children and amateurs Presentation by Aurore Aubouin (Brussels), Jacqui Cameron (Leeds), Nora Cosgrave (Wexford), Victor Gil (Valencia) and Barbara Minghetti (Como)	
	Foyer +3	MC Communicating and selling new opera Sue Janne Alsaker (Bergen), Sarah Barbedette (Paris ONP) and Wilfried Eetezonne (Vlaanderen)	
	Foyer +4	GDIP Independent producing as engine of creativity Led by Oliver Mears (ROH London)	
10.45	Coffee break in Foyer +1		
11.15	Rehearsal room +5	What do impresarios seek from composers? Peter de Caluwe (Brussels), Marcus Küchle (Cincinnati/Erl), Oliver Mears (ROH London), Esther Nelson or Eileen Williston (Boston), Fergus Sheil (Dublin), Valeria Told (Bolzano), Jan Vandenhoutte (Vlaanderen), moderated by Janis Susskind (Boosey & Hawkes)	
	Chorus room +5	AAEDMC Opera with young audiences Discussion led by Lauri Pokkinen (Helsinki) with Arthur Lavandier (composer)	
	Foyer +4	GDIP Best practice showcase of independent producing in opera Coordinated by Florian Bonneau (Opera in situ)	
12.45	Lunch in Foyer +1		
14.00	Rehearsal room +5	What do composers seek from producers and theatres? Aleksi Barrière, Chaya Czernowin (by skype), Händl Klaus, Stuart MacRae, Héctor Parra, Poul Ruders (via video) and Amy Stebbins & Hauke Berheide (New Opera Dialogues) moderated by Aviel Cahn (Vlaanderen)	
	Chorus room +5	AAEDMC Showcase of opera for young audiences With <i>Don Quichotte</i> (6+) by Opéra Royal de Wallonie, <i>Opera Baby</i> (6-36 months) by AsLiCo and <i>Bambino</i> (6-24 months) by Scottish Opera	
	Foyer +3	MC Creating collegial advice and sharing experiences Moderated by Myriam Coplo (Paris ONP) and André Kraft (Berlin KO)	
15.15	Coffee break in Foyer +1		
15.45	Rehearsal room +5	Opera Europa General Assembly including Opera Advocacy Campaign Chaired by Birgitta Svendén (Stockholm) (Opera Europa members only)	
17.00	Coffee break in Foyer +1		
17.30	Rehearsal room +5	GDA New opera that communicates: case studies plus debate Joby Talbot (composer) with Cori Ellison; Peder Barratt Due (composer) with Mary Miller (Bergen)	
17.30	Chorus room +5	AAEDMC Programming new opera Jan Henric Bogen (Vlaanderen), Mechteld van Gestel (Amsterdam), André Kraft (Berlin KO), Katja Tammela (Helsinki), moderated by Aurore Aubouin (Brussels)	
18.30	End of day's sessions		
19.30	Opera Vlaanderen	Les Bienveillantes Music by Héctor Parra, libretto by Händl Klaus, conducted by Peter Rundel and directed by Calixto Bieito	
20.00	deSingel	The Allegory of Desire Zeffiro Torna, Vocalconsort Berlin & Ghalia Benali	PLAY – Court of Choice Liesa Van der Aa & One Trick Pony
	Toneelhuis	Sylvia An Pierlé, Fabrice Murgia & Cie Artara	

Saturday 27 April – deSingel

09.00	Registration opens	
09.30	Blauwe zaal	The genesis of an opera: <i>Hadrian</i> Rufus Wainwright (composer) with Cori Ellison (librettist /dramaturg) moderated by Gill Graham (Music Sales Group)
	Blauwe foyer	GDAAMC Survey of trends in new opera since 2010 Mike Gibb (Operabase) moderated by Karen Stone (Magdeburg)
10.45	Coffee break in Rode foyer	
11.15	Blauwe zaal	GDAAPromoting new work: dialogue with music publishers Daniela Brendel (Ricordi Berlin), Sally Cavender (Faber), Gill Graham (Music Sales), Wolfgang Schaufler (Universal Edition), Janis Susskind, moderated by Christina Scheppelmann (Barcelona)
	Blauwe foyer	AAIP How to develop a healthy ecosystem for 10 years from now Alice Gubler (Opera2Day), Krystian Lada (Airport Society), Leena Malkki (Operafabriken Malmö), Mellika Melouani Melani (Folkoperan), Ewelina Mikluszka (Kraków), Ally Rosser (Mahagony) moderated by Alain Perroux (Aix-en-Provence)
12.30	Lunch	
13.45	Blauwe zaal	GDAAEDMC Must composers change to reach today's public? Laura Berman (Basel/Hannover), Guy Coolen (Rotterdam), Cori Ellison (librettist /dramaturg), Laura Lee Everett (Opera America), Christoph Ghristi (Toulouse), Lilli Paasikivi (Helsinki), Ing-Marie Persmo (Göteborg), Maria Sundqvist (Malmö) moderated by Serge Dorny (Lyon)
	Blauwe foyer	GDAAFrom Russia with Love Alexander Zhurbin (composer) on <i>Love's Metamorphoses</i> , his three one-act operas based on Goethe, Mahler and Lou Andreas-Salome, introduced by George Isaakyan (Moscow Children)
15.00	Blauwe zaal	GDAAIIP Marketplace: co-production projects of new works (Opera Europa members only) Moderated by Valeria Told (Bolzano)
	Blauwe foyer	EDMC Playing opera: The Flute Presentation by Katherine Haataja and Nina Kokeza (Operosa/Opusludus) The game adaptation of Mozart's Magic Flute is taking the challenge of bringing gamers to the opera.
16.15	Blauwe zaal	Conference conclusions
16.30		
17.00	Theater Tol	Life of tree Outdoor performance – duration 20min (no ticket required – open access)
17.30	Blauwe zaal	Showcase <i>Harriet</i> Extract & presentation by Muziektheater Transparant
18.30	End of day's sessions	
20.00	deSingel	<i>Harriet; Scenes in the life of Harriet Tubman</i> Music by Hilda Paredes, text by Lex Bohlmeijer & Mayra Santos-Febres Conducted by Manoj Kamps and directed by Jean Lacornie

Sunday 28 April

15.00	Opera Vlaanderen	<i>Les Bienveillantes</i> Music by Hèctor Parra, libretto by Händl Klaus, conducted by Peter Rundel and directed by Calixto Bieito
20.30	Opera Vlaanderen	<i>In the Penal Colony</i> Music by Philip Glass

Practical information

Venues

Opera Vlaanderen

Frankrijklei 1, 2000 Antwerpen

deSingel

Desguinlei 25, 2018 Antwerpen

Toneelhuis

Komedieplaats 18, 2000 Antwerpen

Red Star Line Museum

Montevideostraat 3, 2000 Antwerpen

Registration

Conference registration includes participation at all sessions and social events, as well as three tickets to performances of your choice from ones that are proposed. Additional seats are available for purchase. Please note that there is limited availability.

Rates

		after 1/4
Members		
▪ first participant	€300	€350
▪ additional participants	€250	€300
Non-members		
▪ first participant	€600	€650
▪ additional participants	€450	€500
Youth (under 30)	€200	€230

Getting there

Via Brussels Airport (Zaventem)

by train to Antwerp Centraal Station: 30 mins, tickets for purchase from station at the airport or online www.sncb.be

Via Schiphol Airport (Amsterdam)

by train to Antwerp Centraal Station: 50 mins, tickets for purchase at www.thalys.com

Via Brussels

by train to Antwerp Centraal Station, most train companies (SNCB, Thalys, Eurostar, ICE) will go to Antwerp in just 30 mins.

Performances

Les Bienveillantes: A world premiere after Jonathan Littell's controversial novel *The Kindly Ones* (*Les Bienveillantes*) from 2006. Libretto of Händl Klaus, with music by Catalan composer Hèctor Parra, the opera will be directed by Calixto Bieito.

PLAY- *Court of Choice*: a meticulously detailed musical tennis match for 3 actors, a string quartet and percussion, in which a single umpire oversees and steers the game.

Sylvia: The icon of a poetic rather than a committed feminism, Sylvia Plath will struggle her whole life between her wish to fit into the American dream (perfect spouse and mother) and her irrepressible need to write. A profound contradiction that led to her demise.

Harriet: Soprano Claron McFadden and composer Hilda Paredes create a musical theatre portrait of the Afro-American freedom fighter Harriet Tubman (1822-1913).

In the Penal Colony: Philip Glass based his pocket opera for two singers, actors and string quintet from 2000 on Kafka's story *In der Strafkolonie*.

Hotels

Here is a selection of hotels near the venues. There are many hotels and b&b's in the area. The rates include breakfast but not the city tax. Please mention Opera Europa when booking.

Lindner WTC Hotel & City Lounge Antwerp ****

Lange Kievitstraat 125, 2018 Antwerpen
10 min walk to the Antwerp Opera
reservation.antwerpen@lindnerhotels.be
please mention reservation code 9252953

Single room: 120€
Double use: 150€

Hyllit Hotel ****

De Keyserlei 28-30, 2018 Antwerpen
2 min walk to the Antwerp Opera
reservations can be made on http://www.hyllit.com/hyllit_hotel_antwerpen-contact.asp

Single room: 132€
Double use: 142€

Radisson Blu Antwerp Hotel ****

Koningin Astridplein 7, 2018 Antwerpen
5 min walk to the Antwerp Opera
Single room: 149€
Double use: 164€

Park Inn by Radisson ***

Koningin Astridplein 14, 2018 Antwerpen
5 min walk to the Antwerp Opera
<https://www.parkinn.be/hotel-antwerpen>
Single room: 139€

Hotel Indigo Antwerp City Centre ****

Koningin Astridplein 43, 2018 Antwerpen
5 min walk to the Antwerp Opera
Single room: 135€
Double use: 145€

Quality Hotel Antwerp ***

Molenbergstraat 9-11, 2000 Antwerpen
2 min walk to the Antwerp Opera
Single room: 99€
Double use: 119€

Save the dates

7 -8 March 2019

Technical & Production forum meeting in Brussels

Recently elected chair of the steering group Charmaine Goodchild hosts a meeting at La Monnaie/De Munt which includes a tour of the newly renovated theatre. For more information, contact audrey@opera-europa.org

18-20 March 2019

Fundraising forum meeting in Milan

Accademia La Scala will host a meeting, convened by Andrew Higgins, recently elected chair of the steering group, to explore global approaches to philanthropy and advocacy for opera. For more information, contact susanna@opera-europa.org

8 April 2019

Opera Day at IAMA conference in Düsseldorf

Further information on www.IAMAWorld.com.

24-25 April 2019

Artistic Administration forum meeting in Antwerp

The forum will meet before the start of our main conference. The group will be looking at contracts and casting tools. For more information, contact susanna@opera-europa.org

25-28 April 2019

CREATION – Opera Europa spring conference and General Assembly in Antwerp

Opera Vlaanderen will host this year's spring conference during its biennial festival Opera 21 with events at Antwerp Opera House, deSingel and other locations in the Flemish capital with specific strands for the Artistic Administration forum, the Marketing & Communication forum, the Education forum and the newly formed Independent Producers forum. Full detailed agenda for the General Assembly will be available on www.opera-europa.org from 25 March.

2-4 May 2019

Costumes, Make-up and Wigs forum meeting in Vienna

Wiener Staatsoper, Volksoper Wien and Art for Art Theaterservice will jointly host the group with workshop visits, show and tell and a Marketplace. For more information, contact aline@opera-europa.org

9-10 May 2019

Technical Manager & Set Workshop forum meeting in Amsterdam

A series of different themes will be explored during these two days at Dutch National Opera & Ballet. For more information, contact celia@opera-europa.org

13-14 June 2019

Audio-visual & Digital media forum meeting at Kungliga Operan in Stockholm

For more information, contact luke@opera-europa.org

13-16 June 2019

Opera America's annual conference in San Francisco

Examining Traditions, Exploring Business Innovation and Deepening Civic Practice.

23-29 August 2019

Opera Management Course in Pesaro, Italy

Apply now!

24-27 October 2019

RECONSTRUCTION – BUILDING BRIDGES – Opera Europa autumn conference at Opéra national du Rhin Strasbourg and Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe

Full announcement in Antwerp and details available in the summer.