



Opera Europa autumn conference  
Grand Théâtre de Genève  
Perspectives  
3-5 October 2025



Recommended sessions for

**GAF** General, Artistic & Finance

**D** Dramaturgy

**F** Fundraising

**S** Sustainability

Sessions in blue are reserved for Opera Europa members only.

Sessions in beige are reserved for FEDORA platform members only.

As part of the SHIFT certification for sustainable cultural networks, our conference will be paperless.  
This programme will be updated regularly until the opening of the conference.

Thursday 2 October 2025

European Opera-directing Prize final workshops

Each team will be working with singers to stage a scene from *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. Attendance restricted to companies who have interest in giving opportunities to young creative teams. **D** The Dramaturgy forum is welcome to attend the European Opera-directing Prize finals.

|       | Foyer Rath / Foyer Lyrique / Amphi Bar  | Balanchine Studio                      |
|-------|---|--|
| 09.30 | FEDORA Next Stage Capacity-Building Programme   |  |
| 11.45 | Foyer Rath – Digital transformation, with IMZ.  | European Opera-directing Prize final 1 |
| 13.15 | Amphi Bar – Inclusion, with BPI Learn   |  |
| 14.15 | Foyer Lyrique – Sustainability, with Aktionsnetzwerk Nachhaltigkeit   | European Opera-directing Prize final 2 |
| 15.45 |   |  |
| 16.15 |   | European Opera-directing Prize final 3 |
| 17.45 |   |  |
| 18.15 |   | European Opera-directing Prize final 4 |
|       | Grand Foyer   |  |
| 18.30 | <b>D</b> Apéropera <i>Pelléas et Mélisande</i><br>Dramaturgy presentation about Grand Théâtre de Genève's next production |  |

Friday 3 October 2025

|       | Foyer Rath / Foyer Lyrique / Amphi Bar  | Balanchine Studio  | Chorus Room   |
|-------|---|--|---|
| 10.00 | FEDORA Next Stage Capacity-Building Programme<br>(continued)  |  | <b>D</b> The role of the Dramaturg in setting the programming agenda<br>Led by Thomas Böckstiegel (Heidelberg)  |
| 11.00 |   |  |   |
| 11.30 |   | Opera Europa Board meeting   | <b>D</b> Open discussion tables   |
| 13.00 | Registrations open in the Hall d'entrée   |  |   |
|       | Main auditorium   | Balanchine Studio  | Chorus Room   |
| 14.00 | Conference welcome by Aviel Cahn and Karen Stone  |  |   |
| 14.10 | Keynote address by Mariame Clément, stage director  |  |   |
| 14.30 | From freedom of artistic expression to self-censorship<br>Tatjana Ažman (Ljubljana), Jan Burian (Prague), Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (Geneva), Frieda Lange (Mortier Next Generation / librettist and stage director), Marc Scorca (OPERA America), moderated by Nicholas Payne |  |   |
| 15.45 | Coffee break in Atrium and Café de la Plage   |  |   |
| 16.15 | Discussion with the European Opera-directing Prize finalist teams<br>Moderated by Sam Brown (former EOP winner/stage director/ Enschede)  |  | <b>F</b> The value of the personal relationship with donors – digitalisation versus in person<br>Anna Hårleman De Geer (Drottningholms), Jean-Pierre Primiani (Montreal) and Marisa Vazquez-Shelly (Madrid) |
| 17.15 |   | <b>GAF</b> Co-production speed dating<br>Led by Fergus Sheil and Gemma Coll Torra<br><i>One representative per company</i> | Meeting of small and independent opera companies<br>Led by Guy Coolen   |
| 18.15 | Foyers du Grand Théâtre de Genève   |  | La Cité Bleue   |
| 18.30 |   |  | Guided tour of <i>La Cité Bleue</i>   |
| 19.30 | Welcome to first time attendees of Opera Europa member companies in the Atrium<br>Meet and greet with the Opera Europa Board and team   |  | European Opera-directing Prize jury and finalists meeting in the Bar Bleu   |
| 20.00 | Conference dinner offered by Grand Theatre de Genève<br>European Opera-directing Prize: announcement of the prizes<br>With Armin Kretschmar (Camerata Nuova) and Barbara Minghetti (Jury President)   |  |   |

Saturday 4 October

|       | Foyers   | Balanchine Studio   | Chorus Room  |
|-------|--|---|--|
| 7.30  | Running club led by Jan Henric Bogen - <i>Meet on the steps of the Grand Théâtre</i>   |   |  |
| 9.30  | Registrations open   |   |  |
| 10.00 | <b>GAFD Style and production values for programming collaborations across Europe</b><br>With Renata Borowska (Poznan), David Pountney, Cormac Simms (London RBO), Laima Vilimiene (Vilnius), moderated by Aviel Cahn (Geneva)  | <b>F Best practices for online fundraising and crowdfunding</b><br>Etienne Eichenberger (Swiss Philanthropy Foundation), Camille Claverie-Li (Paris Opéra Comique), Rosa Haker (Amsterdam), moderated by Edilia Gänz (FEDORA)   |  |
| 11.15 | Coffee break in Atrium and Café de la Plage  |   |  |
| 11.45 | <b>GAFFS Funding renovations and dealing with closed theatres</b><br>Aude Accary-Bonnery (Paris ONP), Cecilia Canemyr (Stockholm), Hein Mulders and Patrick Wasserbauer (Köln), Michaela Orizu (KOBerlin), Georg Vierthaler (Stiftung Oper Berlin), moderated by Alexandra Stampler-Brown (Düsseldorf) | <b>D Second stages: programming around the season</b><br>Barbara Minghetti (Parma OFF), Clara Pons (La Plage/Geneva), moderated by Niels Nuijten (OFF Amsterdam)  |  |
| 13.00 | Lunch in Atrium and Café de la Plage   |   |  |
| 14.15 | <b>Updates and announcements with the Opera Europa team</b>  |   |  |
| 14.30 | <b>GAFFS The Financial implications of a Sustainability policy</b><br>Agathe Chamboredon (Lyon/17h25), Violaine Charpy (Paris ONP), Stijn Schoonderwoerd (Amsterdam), Lauri Pokkinen (Helsinki), moderated by Tobias Wolff (Leipzig)   | <b>GAF Co-production marketplace</b><br>Led by Fergus Sheil and Gemma Coll Torra<br><i>Contact Gemma if you would like to pitch a production for a future season. Update your Future New Productions on <a href="http://www.operabook.org">www.operabook.org</a>.</i> | <b>DS Dramaturgs forum: towards a digitalisation of content</b><br>With Hedda Høgåsen-Hallesby (Oslo) and Valentí Oviedo (Barcelona), moderated by Laura Roling (Amsterdam)  |
| 15.45 | Coffee break in Atrium and Café de la Plage  |   |  |
| 16.15 |  | <b>Opera Europa's Advocacy toolkit and World Opera Day campaign</b><br>Presented by Hannah Griffiths and Celia Grau   | <b>Une journée particulière</b><br>16.00 Presentation with Leonardo García-Alarcón on music by Rota, Chaplin and Morricone<br>17.30 Gianfranco Lelj photo exhibition<br>20.00 Projection of the film <i>Una giornata particolare</i> with Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni<br>Special OE rate: 50CHF (link via registration form) |
| 17.00 | <b>End of sessions</b>   |   |  |
| 18.00 | Wagner's <i>Tannhäuser</i><br>Conducted by Mark Elder and directed by Michael Thalheimer<br>With Franz-Josef Selig, Daniel Johansson, Stéphane Degout, Jennifer Davis, Victoria Karkacheva (end at 23.00)  |   |  |

Sunday 5 October 2025

|       | Main auditorium  | Grand Foyer   | Chorus Room  | Balanchine Studio  |
|-------|--|---|--|--|
| 8.30  | Quick dip in Lac Léman led by Arnaud Fétique - <i>Meet at Baby Plage, quai Gustave Ador</i>  |   |  |  |
| 9.30  | Registration desk opens  |   |  |  |
| 10.00 | <b>What does innovation look like in Europe?</b><br>With Edilia Gänz (FEDORA)  |   | <b>CEO forum</b><br>Led by Hannah Griffiths<br><br><i>Please note that this session is a closed space for CEOs of member companies only (the most senior leader in each organisation who reports directly to the board).</i> | <b>D Next Steps of the Dramaturgy forum</b><br>Led by Gemma Coll Torra   |
| 10.15 | <b>The role of national and international organisations in cultural policy</b><br>Ruth Jakobi (EMC), Frédéric Pérouchine (ROFrance), Claudia Schmitz (Deutscher Bühnenverein), Maya Weisinger (Culture Action Europe), moderated by Audrey Jungers | <b>FS How to apply for FEDORA Prizes and Next Stage Grants</b><br>Led by Diandra de Lima (FEDORA) |  | <b>D Discovering the Ukrainian repertoire</b><br>Meet Ukrainian producers  |
| 11.00 |  | <b>F Next Steps of the Fundraising forum</b><br>Led by Aline Chif                                 |  | <b>S Managing Sustainability: unifying efforts through Culture for the Planet</b><br>With Leticia Labaronne (ZHAW) and Greta Ortalli (UNIL), in conversation with Celia Grau |
| 11.30 | Coffee break in Atrium and Café de la Plage  |   |  |  |
| 12.00 | Closing remarks by conference rapporteur Lorenzo Ponte, stage director and former European Opera-directing Prize winner  |   |  |  |
| 12.15 | <b>Conference conclusions and other announcements</b><br>With Martin Glaser, President, and Karen Stone  |   |  |  |
| 12.30 | <b>End of conference</b>   |   |  |  |
| 13.35 | Regular trains to Lausanne leaving between 13.00 and 15.35 (duration 39min to 1h07)<br>Check out <a href="http://www.sbb.ch">www.sbb.ch</a> to organise your trip  |   |  |  |
|       | <b>Opéra de Lausanne</b>   |   |  |  |
| 17.00 | Massenet's <i>Don Quichotte</i><br>Conducted by Laurent Campellone and directed by Bruno Ravella<br>With Stéphanie d'Oustrac, Nicolas Courjal, Marc Barrard, Andrea Cueva Molnar, Herlinde Van de Straete, Maxence Billiemaz, Jean Miannay         |   |  |  |

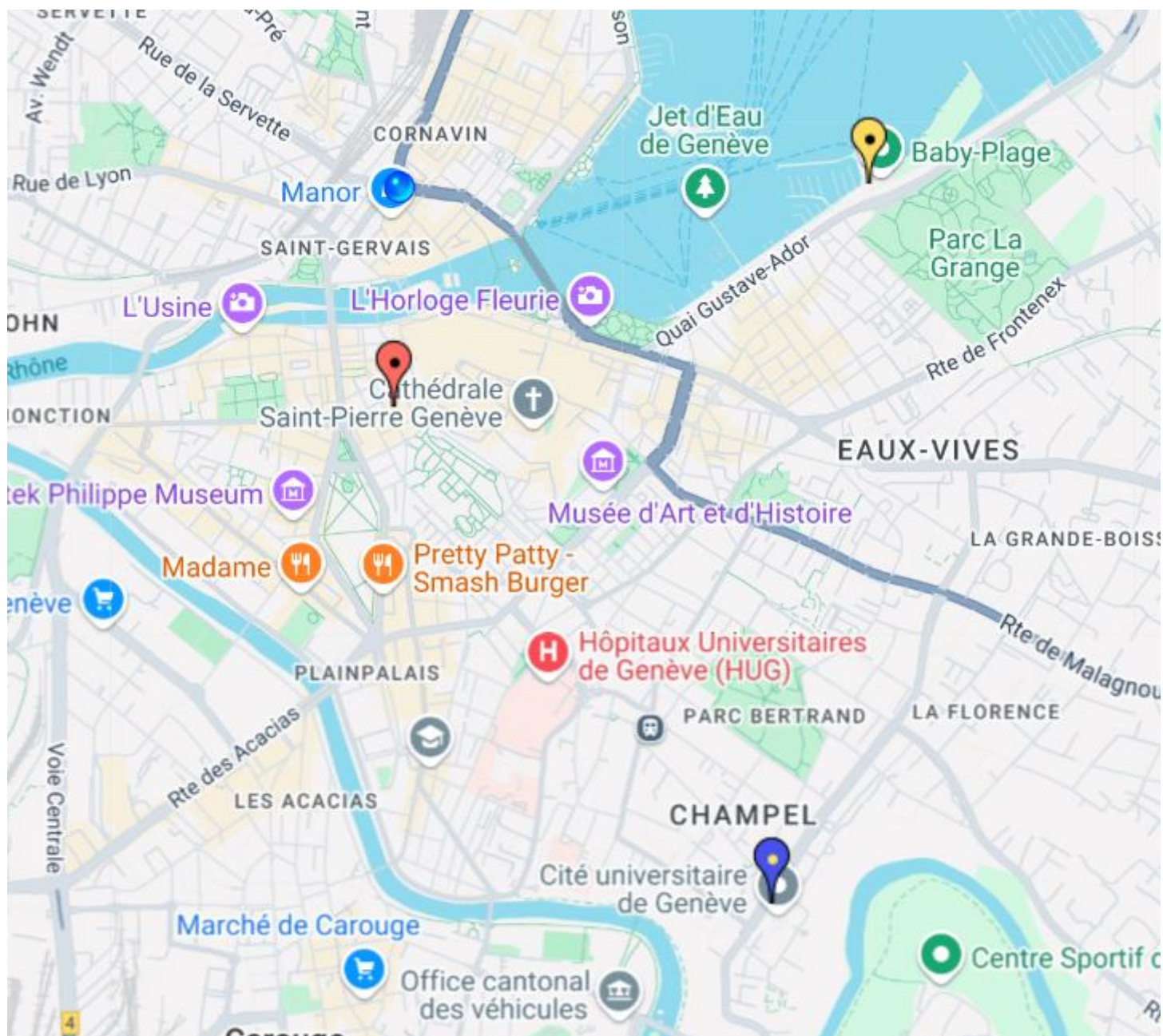
Next Stage Initiative, a collaboration between



Sustainability Partners

Inclusion Partner

Digital transformation  
Partner



Red: Grand Théâtre de Genève

Blue: La Cité Bleue

From Grand Théâtre de Genève to La Cité Bleue:

12min ride on tram 3

or

35min walk

Yellow: dip in the Lac Léman

From Grand Théâtre de Genève to Baby Plage:

12min ride on bus 2 and 5min walk

or

29min walk