

This programme will be updated until the opening of the conference.

*Recommended sessions for*

**GAF** General, Artistic & Finance

**F** Festivals

**Members only**

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<https://www.operaballet.nl/en/opera/dutch-national-opera/opera-forward-festival>

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.

Please return your badge to the registration desk when leaving the conference.

Thursday 12 March 2026 – H'Art Museum

	Main hall (+2)	Bar (+1)
14.00	Registration opens for Members only	
14.30	<b>Co-productions speed-dating for commissions of new work</b> <i>One representative per company</i>	
15.45	Coffee break / General registration opens	
16.15	<b>Welcome address</b> by Sophie de Lint and Karen Stone	
16.30	<b>Keynote address by composer Vasco Mendonça</b>	
16.50	<b>The development process of new work: from commission to first night</b> With Constantin Mende (Frankfurt), Niels Nuijten (Amsterdam), composer Alexander Raskatov, Anthony Roth Costanzo (Philadelphia), moderated by Jan Vandenhouwe (Antwerp)	
18.00	Welcome to first time attendees, with the Opera Europa Board	CEO welcome by Stijn Schoonderwoerd (Amsterdam) meet and greet
18.30		
	<b>Dutch National Opera Main Stage</b>	<b>Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ</b>
20.00	<b>Theory of Flames</b> (World Premiere) Music and libretto by Michel van der Aa Conducted by Elena Schwarz and directed by Michel van der Aa With Mary Bevan, Helen Charlston, Roderick Williams and Julia Bullock (on film) Residentie Orchestra	<b>20.15 Harvest</b> Concert with music by Calliope Tsoupaki, Annelies van Parys, Yumi Augustine, Tymon Zgorzelski, Rob Zuidam, Prach Boondiskulchok, Yating Wang, directed by Cora Burggraaf With Claron McFadden and Helena Rasker

Friday 13 March 2026 – H'Art Museum

	Main Hall	Washington room	Bar (+1)
08.00	Running club, led by Jan Henric Bogen – meet in front of the opera house		
08.30		<b>Opera Europa Board meeting</b>	
09.30	Registration opens		<b>Operabook: updating your rentals</b> With Aline Chif and Gemma Coll Torra
10.00	<b>The strategic business behind planning new work</b> Christina Scheppelmann (Brussels), Tobias Theorell (Stockholm), Marcello Corvino (Ferrara), Laura Berman (Ruhr), moderated by Henning Ruhe (Göteborg)	<b>Composer-dedicated festivals</b> Cristian Della Chiara (Pesaro), Marek Šulc (Litomyšl), Plamen Kartaloff (Sofia), Martin Glaser (Brno), moderated by Walter Sutcliffe (Halle)	
11.15	Coffee break in the Bar		
11.30		<b>New work, new voices: nurturing writers, composers and stage directors</b> From The Sugar Factory (Helsinki): Stephen Webb (composer), Pelzi Peltola (director), Jenna Viro (writer); and Leonard Evers (composer/conductor), Kenza Koutchoukali (director) moderated by Ville Salonen (Opera BOX Helsinki)	
11.45	<b>General Assembly of Members</b> Chaired by Martin Glaser		
12.30	<b>Keynote address by Barrie Kosky</b>		
13.00	Lunch in the Bar	<b>Opera Europa Board meeting</b>	
14.00	<b>Developing the repertoire – getting to the second production of a new work</b> With Annilese Miskimmon (London ENO), Amy Stebbins (New Opera Dialogues), Polina Sandler (Bonn), Waut Koeken (Maastricht), Ioana Vornic (LVRO Foundation), moderated by Katie Tearle (Peters)		
15.00	<b>Break</b>		
15.15	<b>Marketplace for revivals or second productions of a new work</b> Moderated by Cormac Simms (London RBO)	<b>Festivals, fertile ground for creation</b> Guy Coolen (Rotterdam), Benjamin David (Biennale In Situ), Paul Sharp (Edinburgh), moderated by Hannah Griffiths	

16.15	Coffee break in the Bar		
16.45	<b>Immersive and site-specific opera</b>	<b>CEO forum meeting</b>	<b>Dutch National Opera &amp; Ballet Foyer</b>
17.00	Tomáš Ondřej Pilař (Budweis), Richard Willacy (Birmingham), Leandro Suarez (Fribourg), moderated by Lisa Navach (Avignon)	<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>The Song Project</b> Young composers write new compositions based on existing song repertoire, for Netherlands Chamber Orchestra. With singers from Dutch National Opera Academy
18.15			
	<b>Dutch National Opera Main Stage</b>	<b>Koninklijk Theater Carré</b>	
18.30		<b>Pre-performance reception with light bites for ticket holders</b>	
20.00	<b><i>Requiem for Mariza</i></b> (World Premiere) Music by Meriç Artaç and libretto by Sarah Sluimer Conducted by Sora Elisabeth Lee and directed by Silvia Costa With Nina van Essen, Maayan Licht and Chorus of DNO New European Ensemble	<b><i>The Opera Circus</i></b> (Production by Opera2Day) An homage to the grandmaster of dramatic music, Georg Friedrich Händel, and the spectacle theatre of his time. Libretto by Serge van Veggel & Stefano Simone Pintor Netherlands Bach Society conducted by Hernán Schvartzman and directed by Serge van Veggel & Aedín Walsh	
21.30	<b>Premiere reception at Dutch National Opera &amp; Ballet</b>		

Saturday 14 March 2026 – Dutch National Opera & Ballet

	<b>Main stage</b>	
9.30	Registrations open	
10.00	<b>Festivals in context</b> Sophie de Lint (Amsterdam), Serge Dorny (Munich), Ted Huffman (Aix), Lilli Paasikivi (Bregenz), Ville Matvejeff (Savonlinna), moderated by Emily Gottlieb (Longborough)	
11.15	Coffee break	
11.45	<b>Commissioning opera for today's world: the politics of story-telling</b> With composers Michel van der Aa and Susie Self, Netia Jones (London RBO), Tobias Kratzer (Hamburg), Gable Roelofsen (Het Geluid), Stefano Simone Pintor (stage director/librettist), moderated by Thomas de Mallet Burgess (Helsinki)	Please return your badge to the registration desk when leaving the conference.
13.00	<b>Announcements and conference conclusions</b>	
13.30	Lunch – meet Dutch creators	
14.30	End of conference	
		<b>Dutch National Opera Studio Boekman</b>
16.30		<i>The Knife of Dawn</i> Music by Hannah Kendall and libretto by Tessa McWatt Conducted by Robert Kahn and directed by Gavin-Viano With Sakhiwe Mkosana and Ragazze Quartet
	<b>Dutch National Opera Main Stage</b>	<b>Frascati Theatre</b>
20.00	<i>Theory of Flames</i> Music and libretto by Michel van der Aa Conducted by Elena Schwarz and directed by Michel van der Aa With Mary Bevan, Helen Charlston, Roderick Williams and Julia Bullock (on film) Residentie Orchestra	<i>Les enfants terribles</i> by Philip Glass Directed by Béatrice Lachaussée In co-production with Opera Zuid and Nationale Reisopera With singers from De Nationale Opera Studio

Sunday 15 March

	<b>Main auditorium</b>	
	<b>Dutch National Opera Main Stage</b>	<b>Dutch National Opera Studio Boekman</b>
14.00	<i>Requiem for Mariza</i>	
14.30	Music and libretto by Meriç Artaç Conducted by Sora Elisabeth Lee and directed by Silvia Costa	<i>The Knife of Dawn</i> Music by Hannah Kendall and libretto by Tessa McWatt, Directed by Gavin-Viano
	<b>Frascati Theatre</b>	
16.30	<i>Les enfants terribles</i> by Philip Glass Directed by Béatrice Lachaussée In co-production with Opera Zuid and Nationale Reisopera With singers from De Nationale Opera Studio	
20.30		<i>The Knife of Dawn</i> Music by Hannah Kendall and libretto by Tessa McWatt, Directed by Gavin-Viano

**Conference and performance venues**

H'ART Museum – Amstel 51

De Nederlandse Opera & Ballet and Studio Boekman – Amstel 3

Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ – Piet Heinkade 1

Koninklijk Theater Carré – Amstel 115/125

Frascati Theater – Nes 63

