

International OPERA AWARDS

*****EMBARGOED UNTIL 12.00 8 MARCH 2021*****

DATE ANNOUNCED FOR INTERNATIONAL OPERA AWARDS 2021

2021 International Opera Awards

In association with: The Nexus Group

Founding Media Partner: Opera Magazine

- **2020 winners to be revealed in virtual event on Monday May 10**
- **Exclusive performances from stars of the opera world**
- **Event will raise funds for Artist Hardship Fund**

#OperaAwards2021

[Monday 8 March 2021] The International Opera Awards has today announced the date of its 2021 Awards, taking place as an online event on Monday 10 May. After the planned 2020 live ceremony was forced off stage by the coronavirus pandemic, the virtual event will see the long-awaited announcement of the 2020 winners, as well as paying tribute to the resilience of the opera industry during the past year. The event will be streamed to ticketholders worldwide from 6.30pm GMT on Monday 10 May and available on demand afterwards for a month.

The evening will also raise funds for the Opera Awards Foundation Artist Hardship Fund, established last year to provide emergency grants for young artists affected by the pandemic.

Hosted by BBC Radio 3's Petroc Trelawny, the virtual gala will feature exclusive performances from winners and other famous names, with more details to be announced in the coming weeks.

Two opera companies top the 2020 shortlist with recognition in three categories each; Deutsche Oper am Rhein (Education & Outreach, New Production, World Premiere) and Teatro Real (Opera Company, Opera Orchestra and World Premiere). A number of leading opera companies have two nominations each: Royal Danish Opera (Chorus, Rediscovered Work), La Fenice (Education & Outreach, Opera Orchestral), Royal Opera House (New Production, Opera Company), La Monnaie (New Production, Opera Company), Bayerische Staatsoper (New Production, Opera Orchestra), Opera Vlaanderen (Chorus, Opera Orchestra) and Deutsche Oper (Chorus, World Premiere).

In the highly prized singer categories: Female, Male, Young Singer and Opera Magazine Readers' Award, the list of glittering finalists includes soprano Lise Davidsen who was shortlisted in the Young Singer category in 2017 and is now in the running for this year's Female Singer award alongside Maria Agresta, Christine Goerke, Kate Lindsey, Lisette Oropesa and Elza van den Heever.

Conductor Finnegan Downie Dear, a former recipient of an Opera Awards Foundation bursary in 2015, is a finalist in the Newcomer category.

This is a particularly strong year for female composers in the World Premiere category with Raquel García-Tomás' *Je suis narcissiste* (Teatro Real), Elena Kats-Chernin's *Whiteley* (Opera Australia) and Ellen Reid's Pulitzer prize-winning work, *prism* (Beth Morrison Projects) all shortlisted for the award.

The full list of finalists is detailed below.

The shortlist was compiled by an impressive international jury of opera critics, administrators and performers from 20 different countries and chaired by John Allison, editor of *Opera* magazine (the Founding Media Partner of the Awards) and classical music critic of *The Daily Telegraph*. The winners of all categories, except the Readers' Award, are also decided by the jury.

Harry Hyman, founder of the Awards, said:

After the unprecedented challenges of 2020, the opera world deserves a celebration more than ever. We are excited to be bringing the Awards back in virtual form and to welcome our most international audience yet. Although nothing can replace the thrill of live theatre, this will without doubt be a very special night as we pay tribute to the best and brightest of our industry.

John Allison, chair of the Jury, said:

I'm delighted that at last we can reveal our exciting winners and celebrate all the strong shortlisted talent. After an incredibly tough year of disruption, this is a moment for the operatic world to come together, and we're happy that the online format allows people to join in from around the world.

The Awards, founded by philanthropist Harry Hyman in 2012, aim to raise the profile of opera as an art form, to recognise and reward success in opera and to generate funds to provide bursaries for aspiring operatic talent from around the world. Since 2012 over £400,000 has been raised by the Opera Awards Foundation, going to more than 100 bursary recipients.

In 2020, the Foundation established an Artist Hardship Fund, providing emergency grants to previous bursary recipients facing financial hardship due to the pandemic. In 2021 the Fund aims to re-open grant applications more broadly to other young and emerging artists affected by the crisis.

www.operaawards.org

#OperaAwards2021

Booking for the virtual Gala Event on 10 May is now open, with tickets priced from just £10. For more information, visit: www.operaawards.org/awards/

A selection of photos of this year's finalists can be downloaded [here](#).

A selection of photos from the 2019 International Opera Awards can be downloaded [here](#).

Watch highlights from the 2019 International Opera Awards [here](#).

For further press enquiries please contact Sarah Noble at the International Opera Awards:

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2020 FINALISTS

CHORUS

Deutsche Oper, Berlin
Metropolitan Opera
Opera Vlaanderen
Royal Danish Opera
Welsh National Opera
Teatro Verdi, Trieste

CONDUCTOR

Alain Altinoglu
Riccardo Frizza
Edward Gardner
Oksana Lyniv
Joana Mallwitz
Kirill Petrenko

DESIGNER

Lizzie Clachan
Aleksandar Denić
Alban Ho Van
Christian Schmidt
Małgorzata Szcześniak
Raimund Orfeo Voigt

DIRECTOR

Valentina Carrasco
Robert Carsen
Paul Curran
Lotte De Beer

Lydia Steier
Graham Vick

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Birmingham Opera Company
Blackheath Halls Community Opera
Deutsche Oper am Rhein
La Fenice
Opera North
Theater an der Wien

FEMALE SINGER

Maria Agresta
Lise Davidsen
Christine Goerke
Kate Lindsey
Lisette Oropesa
Elza van den Heever

FESTIVAL

Donizetti Opera Festival, Bergamo
Festival Castell de Peralada
George Enescu Festival, Bucharest
Macerata Opera Festival
O19 (Opera Philadelphia)
Salzburg Festival

MALE SINGER

Carlos Álvarez
Javier Camarena
Stephen Gould
René Pape
George Petean
Russell Thomas

NEWCOMER

Andrea Bernard (director)
Alpesh Chauhan (conductor)
Finnegan Downie Dear (conductor)
Marie Jacquot (conductor)
Louisa Muller (director)
Dariusz Przybylski (composer)

NEW PRODUCTION

Handel: *Agrippina*, d. Barrie Kosky (Bayerische Staatsoper / Royal Opera House)
Rimsky-Korsakov: *The Tale of Tsar Saltan*, d. Dmitri Tcherniakov (La Monnaie/De Munt)
Tchaikovsky: *Pique Dame*, d. Lydia Steier (Deutsche Oper am Rhein)

Tchaikovsky: *The Enchantress*, d. Andriy Zholdak (Opéra de Lyon)
Wagner: *Tannhäuser*, d. Tobias Kratzer (Bayreuth Festival)
Wolf-Ferrari/Tchaikovsky: *Il segreto di Susanna / Iolanta*, d. John Wilkie / Olivia Fuchs (Opera Holland Park)

OPERA COMPANY

Finnish National Opera
La Monnaie/De Munt
Oper Frankfurt
Opéra Comique
Royal Opera House
Teatro Real

OPERA ORCHESTRA

Bayerische Staatsoper
La Fenice
Le Concert d'Astrée
Oper Leipzig/Gewandhausorchester
Opera Vlaanderen
Teatro Real

RECORDING (COMPLETE OPERA)

Beethoven: *Leonore* (Harmonia Mundi)
Gounod: *Faust* (Palazzetto Bru Zane)
Moniuszko: *Halka* (Fryderyk Chopin Institute)
Picker: *Fantastic Mr Fox* (Boston Modern Orchestra Project)
Thomas: *Hamlet* (Naxos)
Weill: *Street Scene* (Bel Air Classiques)

RECORDING (SOLO RECITAL)

Benjamin Bernheim: *Benjamin Bernheim* (Deutsche Grammophon)
Daniel Behle: *Zero to Hero: Mozart* (Sony)
Emöke Baráth: *Voglio cantar* (Erato)
Jakub Józef Orliński: *Facce d'amore* (Erato)
Julie Fuchs: *Mademoiselle* (Deutsche Grammophon)
Reinoud Van Mechelen: *Dumesny: Haut-contre de Lully* (Alpha)

REDISCOVERED WORK

Gomes: *Lo schiavo* (Teatro Lirico di Cagliari)
Heise: *Drot og marsk* (Royal Danish Opera)
Lully: *Isis* (Les Talens Lyriques)
Magnard: *Guercoeur* (Theater Osnabrück)
Moniuszko: *Paria* (Poznań Opera House)
Paer: *Agnese* (Teatro Regio di Torino)
Sacconi: *La finta pazza* (Opéra de Dijon)
Storace: *Gli sposi malcontenti* (Bampton Classical Opera)

WORLD PREMIERE

García-Tomás: *Je suis narcissiste* (Teatro Real)

Glanert: *Oceane* (Deutsche Oper)

Kats-Chernin: *Whiteley* (Opera Australia)

MacRae: *Anthropocene* (Scottish Opera)

Nishimura: *Asters* (New National Theatre Tokyo)

Reid: *p r i s m* (Beth Morrison Projects)

Schreier: *Schade, dass sie eine Hure war* (Deutsche Oper am Rhein)

Venables: *Denis & Katya* (Opera Philadelphia)

YOUNG SINGER

Xabier Anduaga

Lena Belkina

Vasilisa Berzhanskaya

Lidia Fridman

Teresa Iervolino

Konu Kim

Roberta Mantegna

Zuzana Marková

Chrystal E Williams

Adela Zaharia

OPERA MAGAZINE READERS' AWARD

Ildar Abdrazakov

Cecilia Bartoli

Jamie Barton

Elīna Garanča

Jonas Kaufmann

Karita Mattila

Anna Netrebko

Erwin Schrott

Michael Spyres

Bryn Terfel

2020 JURY

David Agler

Michael Ajzenstadt

Shirley Apthorp

Xavier Cester

James Clutton

Cosma Mihai

Serge Dorny

Umberto Fanni

Irina Gerasimova
Jane Glover
Polly Graham
George Hall
Brenda Hurley
Deborah Jones
François Jongen
Robert Körner
Aleksander Laskowski
Joanna Lee
George Loomis
Max Loppert
Fiona Maddocks
Njabulo Madlala
Joan Matabosch
Erna Metdepenninghen
Christoph Meyer
Barbara Minghetti
Evans Mirageas
Annilese Miskimmon
Alexander Neef
Eleonora Pacetti
Nicholas Payne
Anna Picard
Christina Scheppelmann
Valery Serkin
Matthew Shilvock
Ken Smith
Victoria Stapells
Birgitta Svenden
James Taylor
Lyndon Terracini
Thomas Yaksic
Junko Yoshida
Francesca Zambello

NOTES TO EDITORS

NEXUS

The Nexus Group has a wealth of knowledge and experience in both the health and education sectors and has an exemplary track record as external advisor to Primary Health Properties PLC, a UK Real Estate Investment Trust and the leading investor in modern primary healthcare premises. The Group also encompasses Investor Publishing, a specialist business publishing information company with a rapidly expanding portfolio of magazines, online products and events; Nexus Investment Ventures, which helps

high-potential businesses realise their funding needs; and CODE, which offers advisory services to the London restaurant industry and publishes the CODE Bulletin and CODE app. Nexus MD Harry Hyman co-founded the International Opera Awards in 2012 with Opera Magazine editor John Allison.

<http://nexusgroup.co.uk>

Opera Magazine

Described by *The Daily Telegraph* as ‘the bible of the industry’, *Opera* magazine has been the world’s leading commentator on the lyric stage since 1950. Providing coverage of operatic events through a mixture of features, reviews (live performances, recordings, books) and analysis, plus monthly listings of events worldwide and its famous ‘We hear that’ section, the magazine has an unrivalled network of international correspondents, covering performances from around the globe.

<http://www.opera.co.uk>



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