

# ≡ 2020 International ≡ OPERA AWARDS

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## **FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR INTERNATIONAL OPERA AWARDS 2020**

2020 International Opera Awards sponsored by NEXUS

In association with BBC Radio 3

Founding Media Partner: Opera Magazine

- **Winners to be revealed at glamorous Gala Event at London's Sadler's Wells on Monday 4 May, with highlights broadcast on BBC Radio 3**
- **Live performances from stars of the opera world including Roberto Alagna and Aleksandra Kurzak**
- **Voting for Readers' Award opens today**

**#OperaAwards2020**

The International Opera Awards today announces the finalists for its 2020 Awards [Wednesday 5 February 2020]. The annual red-carpet event – which celebrates achievement in opera around the globe over the 2019 calendar year – recognises excellence in a wide range of categories that cover performance, design and direction as well as education and outreach.

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, 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, the list of impressive finalists for Female Singer include soprano Lise Davidsen, who was shortlisted in the Young Singer category in 2017, alongside Maria Agresta, Christine Goerke, Kate Lindsey, Lisette Oropesa and Elza van den Heever. The finalists in the Male Singer category are Carlos Álvarez, Javier Camarena, Stephen Gould, René Pape, George Petean and Russell Thomas.

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.

Opera lovers from around the world are invited to vote in the [Opera Magazine Readers' Award](#) to select a winner from finalists including Ildar Abdrazakov, Cecilia Bartoli, Jamie Barton, Elina Garanča, Jonas Kaufmann, Karita Mattila, Anna Netrebko, Erwin Schrott, Michael Spyres and Bryn Terfel. Voting opens today on the International Opera Awards' website and runs until Friday 27 March 5pm, GMT. Jonas Kaufmann, a firm favourite at the Awards having been the only artist to win two awards in one year, is up for the Reader's Award again, as is Jamie Barton, who won the Young Singer award in 2014.

The full list of finalists is detailed below.

The shortlist was compiled by an impressive international jury drawn from a range of backgrounds including critics, opera directors, conductors and designers, 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, will also be decided by the jury.

John Allison, chair of the Jury, said:

*"The huge number of nominations we received for the International Opera Awards is indication of the global interest in them. Spanning the world, the exciting list of finalists — chosen by our truly international jury — confirm the cosmopolitan nature of the art form and bear testimony to the incredibly vibrant work done by opera companies of all sizes everywhere."*

The winners in all 18 categories are announced at a glittering Gala Event at London's Sadler's Wells on 4 May 2020, together with special awards for Philanthropy, Leadership and Lifetime Achievement. The Leadership Award is sponsored by the Good Governance Institute and World Premiere Award by The Vineyard.

Live performances from stars of the opera world are now a defining feature of the evening and have, in recent years, included memorable moments from such renowned singers as Anna Bonitatibus, Stuart

Skelton, Lawrence Brownlee and Ermonela Jaho. This year, Roberto Alagna and Aleksandra Kurzak will sing during the ceremony. Broadcaster Petroc Trelawny will host the event for the fourth year, while BBC Radio 3 will again broadcast highlights from the evening shortly after the event.

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.

[www.operaawards.org](http://www.operaawards.org)

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**Booking for the Gala Event on 4 May will be available via [sadlerswells.com](http://sadlerswells.com) shortly, with tickets priced from £10-£150. For more information, visit: [www.operaawards.org/awards/](http://www.operaawards.org/awards/)**

**Photos of Roberto Alagna and Aleksandra Kurzak, who will be performing at the 2020 Awards, 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 Victoria Bevan or Louise Sizer at Premier:**

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## **2020 FINALISTS**

### **CHORUS**

Deutsche Oper  
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)  
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  
Oper Frankfurt  
Opéra Comique  
Royal Opera House  
Teatro Real

## **OPERA ORCHESTRA**

Bayerische Staatsoper  
La Fenice  
Le Concert d'Astrée  
Oper Leipzig  
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 pazzo* (Opéra de Dijon)  
Storace: *Gli sposi malcontenti* (Bampton Classical Opera)

### **WORLD PREMIERE**

Raquel García-Tomás: *Je suis narcissiste* (Teatro Real)  
Detlev Glanert: *Oceane* (Deutsche Oper)  
Elena Kats-Chernin: *Whiteley* (Opera Australia)  
Stuart MacRae: *Anthropocene* (Scottish Opera)  
Akira Nishimura: *Asters* (New National Theatre Tokyo)  
Ellen Reid: *p r i s m* (Beth Morrison Projects)  
Anno Schreier: *Schade, dass sie eine Hure war* (Deutsche Oper am Rhein)  
Philip 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  
Nadine Benjamin  
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  
Bongani Ndodana  
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>

### **BBC Radio 3**

Since it launched in 1946, the Third Programme/BBC Radio 3 has been a bold + in the cultural world. It is one of the world's foremost presenters, creators, commissioners and curators across classical, folk, world, jazz and contemporary music as well as drama, philosophy and ideas. The station is also the most significant commissioner of new and contemporary music in the UK, with 35 new works commissioned annually and broadcasts over 600 concerts a year, including live broadcasts from the greatest classical music festival in the world (BBC Proms). Radio 3's In Concert programme alone reaches the equivalent of 250 packed concert halls a week, and the BBC Orchestras and Choirs give around 400 concerts a year in over 60 UK locations. The station has always nurtured extraordinary artistic talents, provided a platform for important scientific and political debates/announcements, and broadcast ground-breaking experimental drama – always while delivering its core aim of connecting audiences with pioneering music and culture.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio3>

### **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>

**Opera**  
The world's leading opera magazine

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