

Göteborg Opera announces world premiere of *Mytomania* and premiere of *Siegfried* in Stephen Langridge's ecologically-sustainable Ring cycle



**29 November 2020 – 16 January 2021**  
**Wagner *Siegfried* NEW PRODUCTION**

**20 February – 25 March 2021**  
**Paula af Malmberg Ward *Mytomania* WORLD PREMIERE**

Göteborg Opera House, Gothenburg, Sweden

Ahead of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city of Gothenburg in 2021, the **Göteborg Opera** announces its 2020/21 season focused on moral ambiguities, including the **world premiere of *Mytomania*** on 20 February 2021, a new opera about an unscrupulous celebrity surgeon, by Paula af Malmberg Ward and Kerstin Perski.

**New productions** of *Nabucco* directed by Jacopo Spirei and *Don Giovanni* directed by John Fulljames accompany the third instalment of Gothenburg's ground-breaking *Ring* cycle, an epic four-year ecologically sustainable project, which continues on 29 November 2020 as director Stephen Langridge returns to Gothenburg to stage ***Siegfried***.

**Henning Ruhe**, Artistic Director of Opera & Drama said:

*"Complex relationships with freedom and power are a central theme in the upcoming season's productions at The Göteborg Opera. In Mytomania by Paula af Malmberg Ward and Kerstin Perski, we meet the devious and manipulative surgeon Francis. Don Giovanni's depravity results in his downfall, while in Nabucco, religion becomes a potentially deadly power instrument. Norma is torn between sentiment and duty – and just how free is the heroic Siegfried? Musical drama is packed with powerful stories and characters. Through the music, they seduce us into a maelstrom of emotions."*

On 20 February 2021, the Göteborg Opera gives the **world premiere of *Mytomania*** by Paula af Malmberg Ward to a libretto by Kerstin Perski. *Mytomania* has been commissioned from the Gothenburg-based composer in celebration of the city's 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021. The city of Gothenburg was founded as a Dutch trading colony by King Gustavus Adolphus by royal charter in 1621.

In a thriller-style plot, *Mythomania* centres around Francis, a manipulative celebrity surgeon. While his patients die, he pursues a love affair with the couple's therapist who is supposed to be saving his marriage. But Francis's life is built on pretence, and his research is all bluff. The passion that follows draws the three protagonists into a dramatic love

triangle in which everyone is forced to lie. Who dares unmask a fraud whom everyone is determined to believe?

The singers, for whose voices the opera has been written, are Kerstin Avemo as the therapist Nelly, the drama's real protagonist, Joachim Bäckström as the manipulative surgeon Francis and Ann-Kristin Jones as Rita, his stoically devoted wife. They are joined by Åke Zetterström, Ingrid Tobiasson, and the Göteborg Opera orchestra and chorus. The opera is performed in Swedish, with English subtitles.



Paula af Malmberg Ward has composed ten operas as well as orchestral, chamber and choral works and TV music. In 2018, she was awarded the City of Gothenburg Order of Merit. Librettist Kerstin Perski also wrote the libretto for the Opera's last major commission – *Notorious* – in 2015/6. The composer and librettist have worked closely together before on *Ärret* (Vadstena Akademien, 2004). They are joined by conductor Andreas Hanson and director Clara Svärd.

**Paula af Malmberg Ward** said:

*"We go after kicks and just ignore the consequences. Repression mechanisms and the dislocation of reality are visible in society at large, as well as closer to home. At what point does forgetfulness become repression? At what point does repression becoming lying? How far can lying take us?"*

In a **new production** debuting on 31 October 2020, director Jacopo Spirei sets **Verdi's Nabucco** in a contemporary context of a fundamentalist regime. Part of an all-Italian team, Giancarlo Andretta returns to conduct Verdi's tale of violence, oppression, reconciliation and longing for freedom, with Göteborg Opera baritone Mats Persson as Nabucco to Zoya Tsererina's Abigaille.

Mozart's unscrupulous rogue **Don Giovanni** comes to Gothenburg in a **new production** from 8 May–2 June 2021 by director John Fulljames, artistic director at the Royal Danish Theatre in Copenhagen, who sets the dark story in an elegant hotel among the rich and jaded. Mattias Ermedahl takes the title role alongside Kerstin Avemo, Ann-Kristin Jones and Mia Karlsson, conducted by Ville Matvejeff. The new staging is a co-production with Greek National Opera and the Royal Danish Theatre, Copenhagen.



Director **Stephen Langridge's** ground-breaking *Ring* cycle returns on 29 November 2020 with the premiere of **Siegfried**, leaving the world of the gods for the world of humans in a staging which highlights the violation of nature and the continuing exploitation of the planet and its resources.



Following in the footsteps of Birgit Nilsson, the great Wagnerian soprano, Sweden has produced some of the greatest Wagnerian voices in subsequent generations. Members of the outstanding Swedish cast include Ingela Brimberg as Brünnhilde, Sofie Asplund as the woodbird, while Scandinavian stars Olafur Sigurdarson, Mats Almgren and Hege Høisæter return as Fafner, Alberich and Erda. Conductor Evan Rogister is joined by stellar American tenor Daniel Brenna who takes the title role.

***"Vocally, and dramatically, this Rheingold has an intimacy and flexibility that sets it far apart from the static, heavyweight slugfests of the gloomiest Ring tradition."***

Boyd Tonkin (The Arts Desk)

The **environmentally-conscious production** addresses the themes of the cycle through a new lens: abuses of power, liberation, atonement and destruction see the earth robbed of its natural resources, its power converted for selfish gain and destruction.

Göteborg Opera has long championed **ecological sustainability** and is a leader among opera houses, using power from renewable sources, solar panels and more. Recycling is inherently built into Wagner's scores through his use of leitmotifs, making the Ring cycle with its themes of greed and destruction a natural candidate for the next step: an environmentally sustainable production. In *Siegfried*, set materials and costumes are recycled from *Die Walküre* (2019), itself recycled from *Das Rheingold* (2018), and from sustainable sources and processes as far as possible.



**★★★★ (Music) ★★★★★ (Staging)**

***"Stephen Langridge's staging is magnificently inventive. [...] The impact of this Walküre, however, is huge: a modern staging that speaks to all, and to the now. Magnificent."***

Colin Clarke (Opera Now)

Documenting the process, Göteborg Opera are redefining the values of a modern opera house and reinventing the terms for others to follow. They hope to find new, greener solutions on the way for everything from body paint to theatrical flames. Positive spin-offs are already beginning to emerge and new techniques are already having an impact on the other productions.

Göteborg Opera's **four-year Ring cycle** will end in 2021 with *Götterdämmerung*, with the grand finale marking the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city of Gothenburg. Highlighting the continuing four-year cycle, special screenings of the first two five-star productions are held between 18 December and 3 January.



[Watch Das Rheingold trailer](#)



[Watch Die Walküre trailer](#)

***"Physical and philosophical clarity was reflected in the singing; this is a truly integrated cycle that is proving a fertile meeting of fresh, talented artists. Langridge's concept now places a huge onus on our very own "human" Siegfried to get us out of this mess—or set an example while trying."***

Andrew Mellor (Opera News)

The full season begins on 30 August 2020 with the return of the Opera's acclaimed new staging of **Puccini's *La bohème***, first presented in Gothenburg in February 2020. Puccini's classic is directed by Max Webster, an Associate Director at the Old Vic, where he was also inaugural Baylis Director. The contemporary setting updates the action to 1970's Paris amid student revolts and protest marches. Conducted by Henrik Schaefer, Ida Falk Winland stars as Mimì, with Rodolpho sung by South Korean tenor Jung Soo Yun.



**Bellini's *Norma*** is performed from 5-28 March 2021 in a revival of the Göteborg Opera's 2017 production, directed by Stéphane Braunschweig. Katarina Karnéus received the Svenska Dagbladet Opera Prize in 2018 for her portrayal of the conflicted title role in Bellini's bel canto masterpiece. She stars opposite Mia Karlsson as Adalgisa and Tomas Lind as Pollione, conducted by Myron Michailidis.

***"A fabulous Norma that packs a timeless punch"***  
Svenska Dagbladet

## Full Opera Listings

**30 August**  
**6, 11, 13, 17 & 20 September**

**Puccini *La bohème***

**Max Webster** director  
**Henrik Schaefer** conductor

**Fly Davis** set and costume design  
**Jack Knowls** lighting design  
**Anne Yee** choreography

**Ida Falk Winland** Mimì  
**Jung Soo Yun** Rodolfo  
**Luthando Qave** Marcello  
**Sofie Asplund** Musetta  
**Ivan Dajic** Colline  
**Anton Ljungqvist** Schaunard  
**Daniel Ralphsson** Benoît  
**Herbjörn Thordarson** Alcindoro

**31 October**  
**4, 8, 14, 22 & 25 November**  
**3 & 9 December**  
**8, 13, 15, 20 & 24 January**

**Verdi *Nabucco* NEW PRODUCTION**

**Jacopo Spirei** director  
**Giancarlo Andretta** conductor

**Mauro Tinti** set design

**Silvia Aimonio** costume design  
**Giuseppe Di Iorio** lighting design

**Mats Persson** Nabucco  
**Tomas Lind** Ismaele  
**Mats Almgren** Zaccaria  
**Zoya Tsererina** Abigaille  
**Ann-Kristin Jones** Fenena  
**Daniel Ralphsson** Abdallo  
**Mia Karlsson** Anna

**18 December**  
**2 January**

**Wagner *Das Rheingold***  
Screening of the 2018 production

**Stephen Langridge** director  
**Evan Rogister** conductor

**Alison Chitty** set and costume design  
**Giuseppe Di Iorio** lighting design  
**Annika Lindqvist** movement instructor

**Anders Lorentzson** Wotan  
**Mats Persson** Donner  
**Tomas Lind** Froh  
**Brenden Gunnell** Loge  
**Olafur Sigurdarson** Alberich  
**Daniel Ralphsson** Mime  
**Henning von Schulman** Fasolt  
**Mats Almgren** Fafner



**Katarina Karnéus** Fricka  
**Carolina Sandgren** Freia  
**Hege Høisæter** Erda  
**Mia Karlsson** Woglinde  
**Frida Engström** Wellgunde  
**Ann-Kristin Jones** Flosshilde

**28 November**  
**12 & 19 December**  
**3 January**

**Wagner** *Die Walküre*  
Screening of the 2019 production

**Stephen Langridge** director  
**Evan Rogister** conductor

**Alison Chitty** set and costume design  
**Paul Pyant** lighting design  
**Annika Lindqvist** movement instructor

**Brenden Gunnell** Siegmund  
**Mats Almgren** Hunding  
**Anders Lorentzson** Wotan  
**Elisabet Strid** Sieglinde  
**Annalena Persson** Brünnhilde  
**Katarina Karnéus** Fricka  
**Carolina Sandgren** Gerhilde  
**Gabriella Locatelli** Ortlinde  
**Julia Sporsén** Waltraute  
**Hege Høisæter** Schwertleite  
**Åsa Thyllman** Helmwig  
**Matilda Paulsson** Siegrune  
**Natallia Salavei** Grimgerde  
**Ann-Kristin Jones** Rosswaise

**29 November**  
**6, 13, 20, 27 & 30 December**  
**9 & 16 January**

**Wagner** *Siegfried* **NEW PRODUCTION**

**Stephen Langridge** director  
**Evan Rogister** conductor  
**Göteborg Opera Orchestra**

**Alison Chitty** set and costume design  
**Paul Pyant** lighting design  
**Annika Lindqvist** movement instructor

**Daniel Brenna** Siegfried  
**Dan Karlström** Mime  
**Olafur Sigurdarson** Alberich  
**Mats Almgren** Fafner  
**Hege Høisæter** Erda  
**Sofie Asplund** Woodbird  
**Ingela Brimberg** Brünnhilde

**20 & 28 February**  
**3, 10, 13, 18 & 25 March**

**Paula af Malmborg Ward** *Mytomania*  
**WORLD PREMIERE**

**Kerstin Perski** libretto  
**Paula af Malmborg Ward** composer  
**Andreas Hanson** conductor  
**Clara Svärd** director

**Marika Feinsilber** set and costume design  
**Anna Wemmert Clausen** lighting design

**Joachim Bäckström** Francis  
**Kerstin Avemo** Nelly  
**Ann-Kristin Jones** Rita  
**Åke Zetterström** Harald  
**Ingrid Tobiasson** the Mother

**5, 11, 21, 24 & 28 March**

**Bellini** *Norma*

**Myron Michailidis** conductor  
**Stéphane Braunschweig** director, set design

**Georges Gagneré** staging  
**Thibault Vancaenenbroeck** costume design  
**Johanne Saunier** choreography  
**Marion Hewlett** lighting design

**Tomas Lind** Pollione  
**Anders Lorentzson** Oroveso  
**Katarina Karnéus** Norma  
**Mia Karlsson** Adalgisa  
**Karin Hammarlund** Clotilde  
**Daniel Ralphsson** Flavio

**8, 12, 16, 18, 21, 23, 27 & 30 May**  
**2 June**

**Mozart** *Don Giovanni* **NEW PRODUCTION**

**Ville Matvejeff** conductor  
**John Fulljames** director

**Aylin Bozok** staging director  
**Dick Bird** set design  
**Annemarie Woods** costume design  
**Fabiana Piccioli** lighting design  
**Will Duke** video design

**Mattias Ermedahl** Don Giovanni  
**Mats Almgren** Commendatore  
**Kerstin Avemo** Donna Anna  
**Vassilis Kavayas** Don Ottavio

**Ann-Kristin Jones** Donna Elvira  
**Markus Schwartz** Leoporello  
**Hannes Öberg** Masetto  
**Mia Karlsson** Zerlina

## Göteborg Opera

Gothenburg Opera House, a modern venue designed by Jan Izikowitz of Lund and Valentin, was opened in October 1994. Seating 1,300, it boasts a state of the art acoustic enhanced by special egg-tempera acoustic paint (which used 6,000 eggs). There is even space for a hidden chorus in the circular lighting rig in the middle of the auditorium.



The building houses all the carpentry, metal and wood workshops for mounting full productions from the creation of the sets and props, to costumes, wigs and prosthetics with the latest environmentally-aware technology, including an ozone cabinet to clean delicate costumes. The orchestra, soloists, chorus and contemporary dance company perform opera, dance, and musicals, with a diverse programme allowing for audiences to experiment with all three art forms.

Gothenburg Opera strives to be efficient in all its operations when working with finite and renewable resources. It provides its employees with good environmental knowledge and works to actively reduce its impact on the environment in the following key areas:

- The Nordic Ecolabel restaurant endeavours wherever possible to use organic Fair Trade produce, and meat-free lunches are provided at least once a week to reduce the carbon footprint.
- Electricity consumption is taken from 100% renewable sources.
- Laundry providers and printers are Nordic Ecolabelled.
- Most of the lighting is LED, if not energy class B or better.
- Beehives on the roof of the Opera House – where there is a flower plantation – produce honey sold within the shop.
- 600 square meters of the roof (nearly 3 tennis courts) are covered in solar panels – supplying 107,000 kW per year.
- Sets and scenery are conceived as modular systems where the constituent parts can be reused multiple times.
- All waste is strictly sorted and all supplies are delivered in returnable crates, bottles and packaging.
- Genuine hair is used in wigs

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