



The Göteborg Opera announces 2017-18 Season:
the Scandinavian premiere of Jonathan Dove's *Monster in the Maze*,
a Centenary Gala to Birgit Nilsson with Nina Stemme,
and a sustainable *Das Rheingold* in the autumn of 2018

The Göteborg Opera announces its 2017-18 Season with the Scandinavian premiere of Jonathan Dove's opera *The Monster in the Maze* and two further new productions including Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* and an unusual double bill of Weill & Brecht's *Seven Deadly Sins* with Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*. On the centenary of legendary Swedish soprano's birth, the Göteborg Opera will host the starriest gala to pay homage to soprano **Birgit Nilsson** - "a voice of heroic proportions" (Guardian) and the greatest Wagnerian soprano of her day - by lining up eight leading Swedish Wagnerian sopranos including **Nina Stemme**. The Göteborg Opera is currently preparing for its first Wagner *Ring* Cycle directed by artistic director Stephen Langridge and conducted by Evan Rogister. The *Ring* will commence with *Das Rheingold* in the autumn of 2018 continuing for 4 years culminating in the 400th anniversary of the City of Gothenburg. The autumn of 2018 will also see GöteborgsOperans Danskompani make its debut at Sadler's Wells with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's double bill of *Icon* and *Noetic*.

OPERA

21 October - 5 December 2017 **NEW PRODUCTION**

Double bill - *Seven Deadly Sins* & *Gianni Schicchi*

Double-bill directed by David Radok, conducted by Antony Hermus



The season opens on 21 October with a novel pairing of Kurt Weill & Bertolt Brecht's *Seven Deadly Sins* with Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* directed by house director David Radok. Both operas are satires on greed, excess and moral decay with a full cast of unscrupulous, money-grabbing characters, rogues and villains.

A quintessential Italian tale of corruption and deceit, *Gianni Schicchi* is based on a character in Dante's *Inferno*. It boasts Puccini's best loved soprano aria, the heart-melting "O mio babbino caro". The tale opens on a conniving family scheming to reverse a will at the deathbed of a relation. They resort to employing an opportunist notary Gianni Schicchi, who in turn outwits them. The opera was premiered at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York in December 1918.

Weill and Brecht created their satire *Seven Deadly Sins* about Anna - performed by one a singer and one dancer - who is envious of "those who pass the time at their ease and in comfort, those too proud to be bought, by those whose wrath is kindled by injustice...and those who take what they need without shame." It was premiered in Paris in 1933. Edda Magnason will sing the part of Anna.

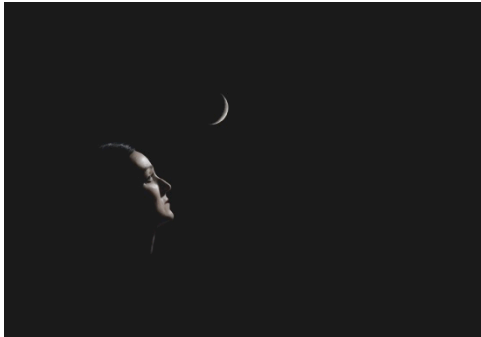
The production is directed by David Radok, whose father once sang the role of Gianni Schicchi and exchanged letters with Brecht.

2 December 2017 – 4 February 2018

Saturday 2 December 2017, 6pm
Wednesday 6 December 2017, 7pm
Wednesday 13 December 2017, 7pm
Thursday 21 December 2017, 7pm
Saturday 30 December 2017, 6pm

Sunday 7 January 2018, 4pm
Friday 12 January 2018, 7pm
Saturday 20 January 2018, 6pm
Sunday 28 January 2018, 6pm
Sunday 4 February 2018, 6pm

Norma



Tomas Lind *Pollione*
Anders Lorentzson *Oroveso*
Katarina Karnéus *Norma*
Ida Falk Winland *Adalgisa*
Karin Hammarlund *Clotilde*
Daniel Ralphsson *Flavio*

Giancarlo Andretta *conductor*
Stéphane Braunschweig *director*
Johanne Saunier *choreographer*

Mezzo-soprano Katarina Karnéus, former winner of the Cardiff Singer of the Year in 1995, is a resident artist at Göteborg Opera with whom she has wanted to form a close association. She makes her debut in *Norma* in the title role, today more commonly sung by sopranos. The production by Stéphane Braunschweig transfers from the Theatre des Champs-Élysées. Giancarlo Andretta will conduct the Göteborg Opera's orchestra, following a high-successful *Traviata* this last season.

3 February – 4 March 2018

Saturday 3 February 2018, 6pm
Wednesday 7 February 2018, 7pm
Sunday 11 February 2018, 6pm
Thursday 15 February 2018, 7pm
Sunday 18 February 2018, 6pm

Wednesday 21 February 2018, 7pm
Saturday 24 February 2018, 6pm
Thursday 1 March 2018, 7pm
Sunday 4 March 2018, 4pm

Ariadne auf Naxos



Daniel Frank *The Tenor/Bacchus*
Conny Thimander *Scaramuccio, A Player*
Sofie Asplund *Zerbinetta*
Annalena Persson *Primadonna/Ariadne*
Mia Karlsson *Naiad, a Nymph*
Matilda Paulsson *Dryan, a Nymph*
Erika Sax *Dryad, a Nymph*
Anna Johansson *Echo, a Nymph*
Daniel Hällström *Harlequin, a Player*
Johan Schinkler *Truffaldino, a Player*
Vassilis Kavayas *Brighella*
The Göteborg Opera Orchestra

Patrik Ringborg *conductor*
Rodula Gaitanou *director*
Victoria Newlyn *choreographer*

Rodula Gaitanou mounts a new production of Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* opening on 3 February. The co-production with Opera North will set the Strauss opera in a 1950s Fellini-esque film studio replete with film stars and clowns, against a backdrop of the conflict between high art and popular culture. Combining slapstick comedy with sumptuous music, the opera falls into two parts - the preparations backstage for a performance of an opera, followed by a compromised performance that tells the tale of Ariadne after her lover Theseus has abandoned her.

17 May 2018

Thursday 17 May 2018, 7pm

Birgit Nilsson Gala

"The Soprano Legend who tamed Wagner" - NY Times Obituary 2006

Nina Stemme, Katarina Dalayman, Annlouise Lögdlund, Christina Nilsson, Matilda Paulsson, Annalena Persson, Elisabet Strid, Iréne Theorin *soloists*
The Göteborg Opera Chorus
The Göteborg Opera Orchestra
Kjell Ingebretsen *conductor*



The New York Times described the Wagnerian legend as "A big, blunt woman with a wicked sense of humor, Ms. Nilsson brooked no interference from Wagner's powerful and eventful orchestral writing. When she sang Isolde or Brünnhilde, her voice pierced through and climbed above it. Her performances took on more pathos as the years went by, but one remembers her sound more for its muscularity, accuracy and sheer joy of singing under the most trying circumstances."

James Levine, who conducted her in Wagner and Strauss at the Met, commented at her passing: "Birgit was unique. Her voice, the dedication of her artistry, her wonderfully wicked sense of humor and her loyal friendship were in a class by themselves. I miss her already, as does the entire Met family."

Birgit Nilsson was born and died in the village of Vastra Karup. She considered herself self-taught and said that she could sing before she could talk and even sang in her dreams. She continued her career well into her 60s. She was known for her one-liners and memorably said, "I've always tried to remember what my mother used to tell me," she said. "Stay close to the earth. Then when you fall down, it won't hurt so much."

For this gala performance, seven Swedish sopranos and one mezzo-soprano including Nina Stemme, Katarina Dalayman, Katarina Karnéus, Annlouise Lögdlund, Christina Nilsson, Annalena Persson, Elisabet Strid, Iréne Theorin will unite for the grand finale to sing together the *Ride of the Valkyries*.

30 May - 3 June 2018 **SCANDINAVIAN PREMIERE**

Wednesday 30 May 2018, 1pm
Thursday 31 May 2018, 5pm

Saturday 2 June 2018, 6pm
Sunday 3 June 2018, 4pm

The Monster in the Maze (Jonathan Dove/Alasdair Middleton) **NEW PRODUCTION**



David Lundqvist *Minos*
Joachim Bäckström *Theseus*
Ann-Kristin Jones *The Mother*
Anders Lorentzson *Daedalus*

Adult Choir: Athenians & Cretans
Youth Choir: Athens' Youth
Children's Choir: Athens' Children

The Göteborg Opera Orchestra and young musicians from Gothenburg
Martin Toft *conductor*
Mattias Ermedahl *director*
Cynthia Kai *choreographer*

Jonathan Dove's *The Monster in the Maze* recounts the tale of the Minotaur but without the character of Ariadne in this version of the myth. The community opera was premiered in 2015 in a co-commission from the LSO, Berlin Philharmoniker and Aix-en-Provence Festival. It is written for three professional soloists, a professional actor, an adult community, youth and children choruses. It won a BASCA award in the amateur and young performers category. The half-man, half-bull Minotaur kept within the labyrinth of the King Minos' Palace on the island of Crete, feeds off the flesh of the defeated Athenians. Theseus slays the monster and frees his compatriots from being sacrificed. Dove collaborated with his regular librettist Alasdair Middleton to adapt the original Greek myth. In Gothenburg, this will be a fully-staged production with 150 professionals and non-professionals on stage.

"Dove's score is typically lively and direct, yet dark, thanks to the absence of violins and violas. Deep bras stirrings represent the Minotaur; trumpet and harp cap a Debussy-esque sea-swell as Theseus returns triumphant." *Guardian*

DANCE

30 November & 1 December 2018 - Sadler's Wells, London

Noetic & Icon - double bill Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Göteborg Operans

Danskompani, created originally by Cherkaoui with GO Danskompani in 2014 (Noetic) and 2016 (Icon).



GöteborgOperans Danskompani has been gaining recognition worldwide with sold-out performances of *Noetic/Icon* in Belgium, France and Germany. The company received 850 applications to fill just six places. The company will be performing *Noetic* coupled with the world premiere of *Skid* created by Belgian choreographer **Damien Jalet** on 7

November 2017. *Skid* will then be paired with *Icon* on 24 and 25 November 2017 in Gothenburg, before touring to Germany, Luxemburg, and Switzerland. GöteborgOperans Danskompani will continue to tour *Noetic/Icon* alongside the world premiere of *Skid* during their 2018/19 season.

Following highly successful tours across Europe of *Icon* created by choreographer **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui** working with sculptor **Anthony Gormley**, GöteborgOperans Danskompani makes its UK debut at Sadler's Wells with a double bill *Noetic* and *Icon*. With the modern day affliction for self-publicity blurring the boundaries between false and genuine in the search for recognition, the idea of icons has evolved from the religious or graphic context. Touring and performing with 3.5 tons of clay, the dancers with great physicality mould the dense material into body parts, masks for face and body, fertility symbols. It's a society deconstructing its icons with every new generation.

At the forefront of commissioning new works, the Danskompani will perform four other new creations this season. In a programme called 'Kult' the ensemble will dance the world premiere of Roy Assaf's *Sacre* to Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring* played by the Göteborg Opera Orchestra and a new version of Ohad Naharin's *Decadance* adapted to the Göteborg Operans Danskompani, with the title *Decadance Gothenburg*. S & S is the title of the production in which new creations by the Tibetan-Chinese choreographer Sang Jijia and the Israeli duo Sharon Eyal and Gai Behar will get its premiere in Gothenburg.

Nurturing in house talent is also a part of the dance company's vision. This season will include a collaboration between the Royal Swedish Opera, Skånes Dansteater and GöteborgsOperans Danskompani, where 3 emerging choreographers, one from each company, will be selected and will create works for each other. This will be presented in Göteborg, Malmö and in Dansens Hus in Stockholm.

"[Icon] sensually choreographed dancers is among the most ingeniously vital, affirmative work I have seen for a long time, partially also due to the fashion designer Jan-Jan Van Essche's fanciful, light costumes. However, the snake soon finds its way into paradise. Icons are created. Icons are torn down." – Dagens Nyheter

24-27 January 2018 - Chaillot, Paris
Kodak - Alan Lucien Øyen
(World Premier - 21 October 2016 at The Göteborg Opera)

Alan Lucien Øyen's theatre and dance work *Kodak* is being performed at the **Théâtre National de Chaillot** in Paris from 25-27 January 2018 by ten dancers from **GöteborgsOperans Danskompani**. *Kodak* is a theatre and dance piece that exists in the hazy boundary between childhood and adulthood, fantasy and reality, safety and danger. The story takes place in a dream world, where nothing is as it first seems, as the audience is faced with fragments of memories, as if flicking through an old photo album. It has been developed in close collaboration with Daniel Proietto, Fernando Melo, Pascal Mosselmans, Yvonne Øyen and dancers from the company.



RING CYCLE 2018-2021

For the Wagner Ring Cycle, Stephen Langridge is picking up on the theme of the earth being robbed of its natural resources, converting its power for selfish gain and destruction. The Göteborg Opera is a champion of ecological sustainability and a leader among opera houses. The whole cycle will be devised to be as ecologically sustainable as possible. Stephen Langridge commented:

"I'm thrilled to be exploring how we as artists can contribute to a more sustainable world. The Opera House already has excellent credentials in the running of the building and in its production processes, but here is a new challenge to create an opera production with the designer Alison Chitty that pushes the envelope from an artistic perspective. How far can we go? Recycled and biodegradable materials, low energy lighting... how can we help our audience to walk, cycle and use public transport? There are endless ideas and challenges. It's a suitably epic adventure for Wagner's massive Ring Cycle."

THE GÖTEBORG OPERA

The Göteborg Opera in its modern venue designed by Jan Izikowitz of Lund and Valentin was opened in October 1994. It seats 1,300 places and 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 (such as an ozone cabinet to clean delicate costumes). The orchestra and chorus are fully adaptable for opera, dance and musicals and the diverse programme allows for audience to experiment with all three art forms, with a quarter regularly attending all three with little sign of the usual snobbery normally associated with opera.

Ecological ethos

The Göteborg Opera strives to be efficient in all its operations when working with finite, 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:

- Its restaurant has won a Nordic Ecolabel meaning it endeavours wherever possible to use organic Fair Trade produce. At least once a week, there is one meat-free lunch to reduce the carbon footprint.
- Electricity consumption is taken 100% from renewable sources.
- Laundry providers and printers and Nordic Ecolabelled.
- Most of the lighting is LED or better than energy class B
- Beehives on the roof of the Opera House where there is a flower

plantation. The honey is sold within the shop

- 600sq.meters of the roof (nearly 3 tennis courts) are covered in solar panels supplying 107,000kW per year.
- Sets and scenery have modular systems where everything can be taken down built back up again with carcasses being used multiple times. All waste is strictly sorted and all supplies are delivered in returnable crates, bottles and packaging.
- Genuine hair for wigs
- Long term goal to created an entire production eco-labelled.

"As a community member we are using creativity, openness, curiosity and modern approach to move gently through life. We are co-creating our society where pluralism, diversity and responsible development lead to a good life now, and for future generations."

SEASON 2017 – 2018 LISTINGS

OPERA

The Seven Deadly Sins & Gianni Schicchi | Weill & Puccini **NEW PRODUCTION**

21 October – 5 December 2017
With Edda Magnason (Anna) and Åke Zetterström (Gianni Schicchi)
Conductor Antony Hermus/Alexander Hanson | Director David Radok
#GO7schicchi

Norma | Bellini
2 December 2017 – 4 February 2018
with Katarina Karnéus (Norma)
Conductor Giancarlo Andretta |
Director Stéphane Braunschweig
#GOnorma

La serva padrona & The Telephone | Pergolesi & Menotti
25 January 2018 – 4 February 2018
with Åke Zetterström, Carolina Sandgren, David Lundqvist
Conductor Joakim Kallhed | Direction Mia Ringblom Hjertner & Mattias Ermedahl

Ariadne auf Naxos | R.Strauss
3 February – 4 March 2018
with Annalena Persson (Ariadne), Daniel Frank, Sofie Asplund
Conductor Patrik Ringborg | Director Rodula Gaitanou
#GOariadne

The barber of Seville | Rossini
24 March – 8 May 2018
with Luthando Qave (Figaro), Ole Aleksander Bang, Ann-Kristin Jones
Conductor Henrik Schaefer | Director David Radok

Boris Godunov | Mussorgsky
21 April – 13 May 2018
with Clive Bayley (Boris Godunov)
Conductor Leo Hussain | Director Peter Konwitschny
#GOboris

The Monster in the Maze | Dove
30 May – 3 June 2018 **SCANDINAVIAN PREMIERE**
with David Lundqvist (Minos), Joachim Bäckström, Ann-Kristin Jones, Anders Lorentzson
Conductor Martin Nagashima Toft | Director Mattias Ermedahl
#GOMonstret

CONCERT

Ariadne 360°

1 October 2017

Music by Benedetto Marcello, Nicola Porpora, Haydn, Albert Roussel, Elliot Carter

Conductor Ariane Matiakh

Dawn

8 March 2018

Music by some of the Western world's foremost female composers: Joan Tower, Ethel Smyth, Elfrida Andree, Alma Mahler, Germaine Tailleferre.

Conductor Ruut Kiiski

A Tribute to Birgit Nilsson

17 May 2018

Celebration of the centenary of Swedisch soprano Birgit Nilsson with some of her successors: Katarina Dalyman, Katarina Karnéus, AnnLouice Lögdlund, Christina Nilsson, Annalena Persson, Elisabet Strid, Iréne Theorin and Nina Stemme.

Conductor Kjell Ingebretsen

DANCE

AT HOME IN GOTHENBURG

Kult, double bill of:

Decadance Gothenburg | Ohad Naharin **NEW VERSION**

Sacre | Roy Assaf **WORLD PREMIERE**
9 September – 15 October 2017

Skid | Damien Jalet **WORLD PREMIERE**
Noetic | Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui **REVIVAL**
7 – 16 November 2017

Skid | Damien Jalet **PREMIERE REVIVAL**
Icon | Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui **REVIVAL**
24 – 25 November 2017

S & S

new creation by Sang Jijia **WORLD PREMIERE**

new creation by Sharon Eyal & Gai Behar **WORLD PREMIERE**

3 March – 7 April 2018

INTERNATIONAL TOURING GOTEBORGS DANSKOMPANI

Icon | Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui
21-22 October 2017 | Ludwigshafen, Germany
19-20 January 2018 | Luxemburg

Kodak | Alan Lucien Øyen
25-27 January 2018 | Chaillot, Paris

Icon & Noetic | Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui
12-14 April 2018 | Winterthur, Switzerland
19-20 April 2018 | Genève, Switzerland
24-25 April 2018 | Fribourg, Switzerland
30 November & 1 December 2018 | Sadler's Wells, London, UK **DEBUT**

S & S

16 & 17 May 2018 | Wiesbaden, Germany

<http://en.opera.se/>

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