



*A Cambodian Magic Flute* integrates Western and Cambodian culture in the historic temples of Angkor Archaeological Park



**16-20 November 2020**  
Chau Say Tevoda Temple  
Angkor Archaeological Park, Cambodia

***Mozart at Angkor: A Cambodian Magic Flute***

**Paolo Fanale** Tamino  
**Amélie Hois** Pamina  
**Giorgio Caoduro** Papageno

**Yan Sinan** Sarastro  
**Livia Rado** Königin der Nacht  
**Vo Thuy Ngoc Tuyen** Papagena

**Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra**  
**Aaron Carpenè** musical director  
**Stefano Vizioli** stage director  
**Éric Raisina** costume designer  
**Nam Narim** choreographer

Merging mythological Cambodian storytelling with fantastical Mozartian opera, ***A Cambodian Magic Flute*** creates new cultural dialogue in four performances from **16-20 November 2020**, held in the breath-taking **Angkor Archaeological Park** in celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the APSARA National Authority. The production is held in memory of journalist **Robert Turnbull**.



In a journey from darkness to light, self-discovery and enlightenment, the flute's magic has the power to turn sorrow to joy: it celebrates the national pride of Cambodia and the revival and regeneration of the performing arts. The production involves more than 50 traditional Cambodian musicians and dancers in an international cast of 120 performers, directed by **Stefano Vizioli** and conducted by **Aaron Carpenè**.

*A Cambodian Magic Flute* draws on the strong resonances between the narrative of Mozart's opera and the staple of traditional Cambodian storytelling: the epic poem, the **Reamker** (the Cambodian *Ramayana*), an ancient tale depicted on the temple walls at Angkor. Exiled from the throne, Preah Ream must free his wife from the cruel grasp of Krong Reap in a tale of love, loyalty, trust, and revenge played out in magical encounters with giants, royals, monkeys, and even mermaids.

*A Cambodian Magic Flute* features an international cast and creative team, including **Paolo Fanale** as Tamino, **Yan Sinan** as Sarastro, **Amélie Hois** as Pamina, **Livia Rado** as Queen of the Night and **Giorgio Caoduro** as Papageno. The creative team is completed with Siem Reap-based costume designer **Eric Raisina** and lighting designer **Nevio Cavina**, while eight Cambodian players join the **Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra**. The performances are sung in Khmer and German.

Stage Director **Stefano Vizioli** and Musical Director **Aaron Carpenè** specialise in presenting Western opera through the traditional performing arts and religion of Asian cultures. In 2013 they brought together an international opera cast with Bhutan's Royal Academy of Performing Arts for Handel's *Acis and Galatea* in a production proclaimed "*not just an extraordinary achievement, but a deeply moving human experience*" in the New York Times.



**Aaron Carpenè** said:

*"This is the third international production I have stewarded following the ground-breaking events Opera Bhutan and Japan Orfeo. Mozart and his librettist Schikaneder wanted to lead their audiences into an imaginary far-away world, Tamino is a Japanese Prince and the fantasy ancient Egyptian setting of temples and pyramids. In Mozart at Angkor our audiences will have a heightened experience of the creators' intentions in this original interpretation, Cambodian music and theatre together with Mozart's much-loved masterpiece in the setting of the sacred temples of Angkor surrounded by tropical forest. A theatre experience for all the senses!"*

The production is held in memory of the journalist **Robert Turnbull**. He raised the international profile of arts in Cambodia and aimed to forge cultural dialogue and exchange between Western and Cambodian arts before his death in late 2018. Following a series of annual workshops and a guest appearance at the 2017 Sanxay Summer Opera Festival in France, the project moves forward thanks to his legacy, keeping alive his visionary desire to cultivate the performing arts for the betterment of humanity.

The operatic writing of Mozart is fused with traditional Cambodian music including a **Pinpeat ensemble**, the largest Khmer traditional musical ensemble. Pinpeat ensembles perform the ceremonial music of the royal courts and temples of Cambodia, including court dances, shadow plays, and religious ceremonies. Mozart at Angkor Pinpeat Ensemble will restore the historic *pin* (harp), as depicted on the ancient walls of Angkor Wat temple, to the centre of the ensemble of ten wind and percussion instruments following a gap of 800 years.



Under choreographer **Nam Narim**, an ensemble of thirty dancers perform the art of the Royal Ballet of Cambodia, the highest form of Khmer classical dance. They are joined by two Yikè artists and their popular form of Cambodian musical theatre. The performance features several **UNESCO-listed Intangible Cultural Heritage treasures** in need of urgent safeguarding: the Royal Ballet of Cambodia, Sbek Thom (shadow theatre), Lkhon Kohl (masked dance), and the musical storytelling tradition of Chapei Dang Veng. 90% of Cambodian artists are believed to have died under the Khmer Rouge regime.

A UNESCO World Heritage site attracting more than two million visitors a year, **Angkor Archaeological Park** is a place of spiritual vibrancy, extraordinary archaeology, history and natural environmental beauty. The sprawling former capital city of the Khmer Empire between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, Angkor was home to 750,000 people, and the famed Angkor Wat temple appears on the Cambodian flag.

Performances of *A Cambodian Magic Flute* take place in the evocative **Chau Say Tevoda Temple**, a 12<sup>th</sup>-century Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu and built under the reign of King Suryavarman II. It has been restored extensively and reopened in 2009.

2020 marks the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the **APSARA National Authority**, created in 1995 as the national authority in charge of the protection and sustainable development of the Angkor Heritage Site and the region of Siem Reap. Named for *apsaras*, the celestial singers and dancers of local mythology, the establishment of the authority was the first steps taken by the Royal Government of Cambodia towards sustainable development, protection and promotion of cultural heritage.

Performances of *A Cambodian Magic Flute* align with the **13<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Meeting Summit**, which will take place on **16-17 November 2020** in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Hosted for the first time in the country, the biennial summit is a political dialogue forum to enhance relations and various forms of cooperation between its partners, and is attended by more than 50 Heads of State and Government.

A **Gala Performance** of the opera on 18 November will be attended by His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia.

## ***A Cambodian Magic Flute: Listings***

### **16, 19, 20 November 2020**

Chau Say Tevoda Temple  
Angkor Archaeological Park, Cambodia

### **18 November 2020**

Gala Performance

#### ***Mozart at Angkor: A Cambodian Magic Flute***

**Paolo Fanale** Tamino  
**Yan Sinan** Sarastro  
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**Livia Rado** Königin der Nacht  
**Giorgio Caoduro** Papageno  
**Vo Thuy Ngoc Tuyen** Papagena  
**Bettina Gfeller** 1. Dame

**Julia Bailly** 2. Dame  
**Hannah Fraser** 3. Dame  
**Pablo Cameselle** Monostatos  
**Ryu Kiyong** 1. Priest  
**San Chhinit** 2. Priest

#### **Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Aaron Carpenè** musical director  
**Stefano Vizioli** stage director  
**Nam Narim** choreographer  
**Nevio Cavina** lighting designer  
**Éric Raisina** costume designer

**Mozart at Angkor Dance Ensemble**  
**Mozart at Angkor Pinpeat Ensemble**  
**Yikè artists**



**MOZART  
AT ANGKOR**  
A CAMBODIAN MAGIC FLUTE



## **Mozart at Angkor: A Cambodian Magic Flute**



Mozart at Angkor was founded by the late Robert Turnbull, who appointed Stefano Vizioli and Aaron Carpenè to lead the project in 2014. Workshops began in 2014, and abbreviated versions of *A Cambodian Magic Flute* have since taken place at Navatu Dreams Resort in Siem Reap (December 2017), Chaktomuk Theater in Phnom Penh (March 2018) and abroad at Les Soirées Lyriques de Sanxay in France (August 2017) with the Amrita Dance Ensemble touring from Cambodia.

*Mozart at Angkor: A Cambodian Magic Flute* is presented in partnership with the APSARA National Authority, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, the Ministry of Tourism, UNESCO and the Royal University of Fine Arts in Phnom Penh. The project holds royal patronage under His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia.

[mozartatankor.org](http://mozartatankor.org)

## **Aaron Carpenè & Stefano Vizioli**



A specialist in pre-19<sup>th</sup> century western music, Aaron Carpenè performs internationally in a repertory that ranges from Italian instrumental and vocal chamber music to opera. He has conducted Handel's *Imeneo* in Australia, and a critically acclaimed production of Handel's *Acis and Galatea* with the Akademie für Alte Musik, Berlin in Macau. Carpenè was the originator of the pioneering intercultural projects *Opera Bhutan* and *Japan Orfeo*.

Internationally acclaimed opera director Stefano Vizioli's 35-year career has included eminent productions of *Don Pasquale* at La Scala with Riccardo Muti and *The Barber of Seville* at Ferrara with Claudio Abbado. More than ten commercial DVDs are currently available of his productions. He was one of the creators of *OPERABHUTAN*, a critically acclaimed intercultural operatic performance in the heart of the Himalayas.

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