



The New Generation Festival at Palazzo Corsini al Prato in Florence, Italy announces 2019 programme and partnership in Andermatt, Switzerland alongside plans for new opera studio



**"a galaxy of rising stars"**

The Independent

**Wednesday 28 August – Saturday 31 August 2019**

Palazzo Corsini al Prato, Florence

The **New Generation Festival** returns from **28 to 31 August 2019** with performances of Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* held in the ravishing ornamental gardens of Florence's Palazzo Corsini al Prato with a budding young cast of tomorrow's stars. The festival was established to create an international platform for the finest young operatic talents, and now announces long-term initiatives including a cross-border **New Generation Concert Series** with the new **Andermatt Concert Hall** in Switzerland (opening June 2019). The Festival will establish the **Mascarade Opera Studio** from September 2020 to provide young emerging singers with a 9-month residency tailor-made to their needs.

Setting Mozart's comedic tale against the scenic backdrop of the Palazzo Corsini al Prato gardens, the opera's line-up includes **Daniel Mirośław** as Figaro, **Anna El-Khashem** as Susanna, **Faik Mansuroğlu** as the Count and **Nela Šarić** as the Countess. The international cast is drawn from nine countries, and is formed of young singers at the outset of their careers.



Many are recent participants in opera studios and academies, including the Georg Solti Bel Canto Accademia (Faik Mansuroğlu), Garsington's Alvarez Young Artists' Programme (James Corrigan, appearing as Antonio), the Royal Opera House's Jette Parker Young Artists Programme

(Chuma Sijeqa, appearing as Bartolo), and the Fabbrica Young Artist Programme (Domenico Pellicola, appearing as Basilio, and Sara Rocchi, appearing as Cherubino) or are making house debuts around the world. **Jonathan Santagada** returns to conduct the Bologna-based **Orchestra Senzaspine**, whose members are all under 35 years old, while director **Victoria Stevens** will span centuries in a production that uses 21<sup>st</sup>-century technological surprises with costumes designed by the legendary **Sartotia Tirelli**.



The **New Generation Festival** provides an international platform for young musical talent, with the aim of breaking down barriers between generations: the age of the festival's 2018 audience ranged from 8 to 91 and over 50% of the opera audience was under 35. The 2018 festival sold over 2,000 tickets to a diverse and international audience that represented over 25 countries.

The festival programme is rounded off with an orchestral concert and jazz night. **Giuseppe Guarrera** is the soloist in Beethoven's *Piano Concerto no. 4* in the **Filippo Corsini Orchestral Concert** on **29 August**, alongside Schumann's *Symphony no. 2*. Orchestra Senzaspine is conducted by **Maximilian Fane**. Music-making continues late into the night on 29 August with a midnight performance of Schumann's *Piano Quartet in E-flat major* by the young **Quartetto Werther** at the **Chiesa di Ognissanti**.

Nightly jazz and swing from **Sam Jewison's Band** follows each night's main performance alongside a special programme curated by **DJ Harold van Lennep** in the Palazzo gardens for the festival finale. Committed to breaking down barriers between genres, a showcase on **30 August** presents **From Blues to Bebop: The Spirit of Harlem**, featuring young jazz artists from **Catskill Jazz Factory** who will lead all-night jamming sessions.



Located in the centre of Florence, the Palazzo Corsini al Prato is owned by the century-old family of the same name. The palace gardens, among Florence's finest, were designed by Buontalenti in 1591, and underwent a Romantic-style makeover in the hands of Don Neri Corsini in 1834. They now feature wooded groves, a knoll,

a little lake, and were most recently reworked by Oliva di Collobiano.

The festival is put on by co-founders **Maximilian Fane** (Artistic Director), **Roger Granville** (Creative Director), and **Frankie Parham** (Executive Producer) with the support of **Princess Giorgiana Corsini** and other members of the Corsini family.

## Andermatt Concert Hall

Following two years of success in Florence, the New Generation Festival's activities expand to the newly created Swiss ski resort of Andermatt. The year-round **New Generation Concert Series** has been established by the festival to provide international opportunities to promising young instrumentalists.

The recital series mirrors the New Generation Festival's ethos: showcasing the next generation of talent and offering opportunities for training in a nurturing environment, whilst inspiring a new generation of listeners. Participants including **Quartetto Werther**, **Margherita Santi**, and **Gennaro Cardaropoli** will each perform three recitals internationally, in Florence, Milan, and Andermatt.

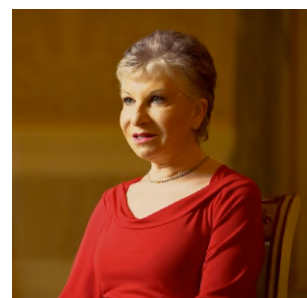


Switzerland's newest concert hall is unveiled in **Andermatt** on **16 June**, in a grand opening featuring the **Berliner Philharmoniker**. The New Generation Festival is overseeing the ambitious programme for the concert hall's 19-20 season, announcing three festivals featuring international stars including **Daniel Barenboim**, the **Chamber Orchestra of Europe** and conductor **Daniel Harding**, and soprano **Anush Hovhanissyan**. The new concert hall in Andermatt will be fully integrated into the festival's activities, while the annual festival at Palazzo Corsini remains a highlight of the organisation's programming.

## Mascarade Opera Studio

In **September 2020**, the Festival launches an international **Mascarade Opera Studio** in Florence, offering a year-round opportunity to budding opera singers, and providing a carefully designed high-ability nine-month training programme for eight singers and two répétiteurs.

The studio will provide extensive performance skills training by expert coaches, vocal consultants, performance specialists and internationally acclaimed masterclass teachers, including legendary Italian soprano **Mariella Devia** as Honorary President and world-renowned English





baritone **Sir Thomas Allen** as Honorary Patron. The studio will be directed by Dr Ralph Strehle. In accordance with its founding ethos, Mascarade Opera Studio envisages to be a place where knowledge and practices are exchanged freely.

## New Generation Festival Listings

**Wednesday 28 August, 19:30**

**Saturday 31 August, 19:30**

Palazzo Corsini al Prato, Florence

**Mozart** *Le nozze di Figaro*

**Daniel Mirośław** Figaro

**Anna El-Khashem** Susanna

**Faik Mansuroğlu** Conte

d'Almaviva

**Nela Šarić** Contessa d'Almaviva

**Sara Rocchi** Cherubino

**Beth Margaret Taylor**

Marcellina

**Domenico Pellicola** Basilio

**Alexandra Lowe** Barbarina

**Chuma Sijeqa** Bartolo

**James Corrigan** Antonio

**Robert Forrest** Don Curzio

**Jonathan Santagada** conductor

**Orchestra Senzaspine**

**Victoria Stevens** director

**Giulia Bellè** designer

**Sartoria Tirelli** costume

designer

**Wednesday 28 August, late**

Palazzo Corsini al Prato

**Sam Jewison's Band**

**Thursday 29 August, 19:30**

Palazzo Corsini al Prato

**Beethoven** *Piano Concerto no. 4*

**Schumann** *Symphony no. 2*

**Giuseppe Guarrera** piano

**Maximilian Fane** conductor

**Orchestra Senzaspine**

**Thursday 29 August, midnight**

Chiesa di Ognissanti

**Schumann** *Piano Quartet in E flat major, op. 47*

**Quartetto Werther**

**Thursday 29 August, late**

Palazzo Corsini al Prato

**Sam Jewison's Band**

**Friday 30 August, 19:30**

Palazzo Corsini al Prato

**From Blues To Bebop: the Spirit Of Harlem**

**Dominick Farinacci, Shenel**

**Johns, Patrick Bartley, Jr.,**

**Christian Tamburr, Michela**

**Marino Lerman, Mathis Picard,**

**Kyle Poole, Russell Hall**

**Maximilian Fane** conductor

**Orchestra Senzaspine**

**Friday 30 August, late**

Palazzo Corsini al Prato

**Sam Jewison's Band**

**Saturday 31 August, late**

Palazzo Corsini al Prato

**Sam Jewison's Band**

**DJ Navarro Music** perform a programme curated by **DJ**

**Harold van Lennep**



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

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