

The New Generation Festival in Florence announces 2020 programme including *La Cenerentola*

Ahead of launch of new Mascarade Opera Studio in September

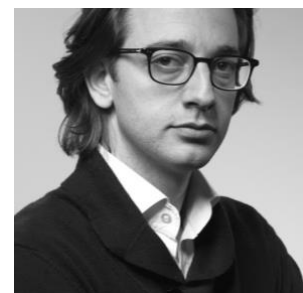
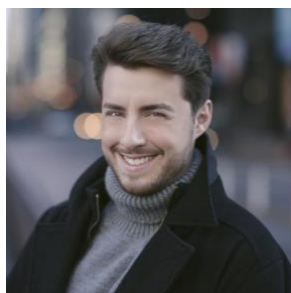
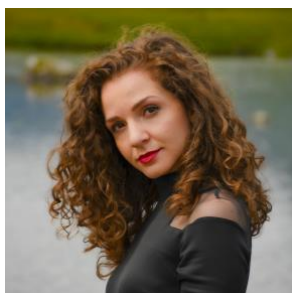
Wednesday 26 August – Saturday 29 August 2020
Palazzo Corsini al Prato, Florence



"full of the promise of great things to come"
Opera Now

Introducing a budding cast of tomorrow's stars in **Rossini's magical *La Cenerentola***, the 4th edition of the **New Generation Festival** returns from **26-29 August**, hosting opera, jazz and concerts in the charming ornamental gardens of Florence's Palazzo Corsini al Prato. From **September 2020**, a new **Mascarade Opera Studio** will be established on the site, providing emerging singers with a 9-month residency tailor-made to their needs.

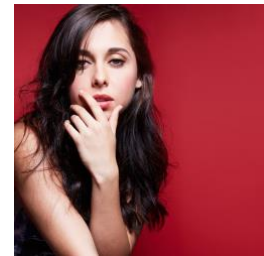
Performed on **26 and 29 August 2020** in the delectable private gardens of the Corsini family, Rossini's enchanting retelling of the Cinderella fairy-tale features rising stars Bulgarian mezzo-soprano **Svetlina Stoyanova** as Angelina (Cenerentola) and Canadian tenor **Josh Lovell** as her Prince, Don Ramiro. Both singers are young members of the Vienna State Opera ensemble, and Stoyanova is the 2017 winner of the Neue Stimmen competition. Lovell previously appeared at the 2018 Festival in *Don Giovanni*, with his Don Ottavio described in The Independent as *"dream casting [...] with an expressive purity of tone which we all too seldom hear"*, winning the Grand Prize at the 's-Hertogenbosch International Vocal Competition the same year. The production will be directed by **Jean-Romain Vesperini** and conducted by **Sándor Károlyi**.



The young cast is completed with Armenian baritone **Gurgen Baveyan** (Dandini), Argentinian bass-baritone **Federico de Michelis** (Don Magnifico), Congolese bass **Blaise Malaba** (Alidoro), Maltese mezzo-soprano **Marvic Monreal** (Tisbe) and Italian soprano **Giorgia Paci** (Clorinda). All singers are current members or recent graduates of notable programmes worldwide including the Royal Opera House's Jette Parker Scheme (Blaise Malaba), Opernstudio Frankfurt (Gurgen Baveyan), and Houston Grand Opera Studio (Federico de Michelis). The international cast performing at the outset of their careers are drawn from seven countries around the world. The second cast of *La Cenerentola* will perform at Corfu's Kopanous Theatre from 2-5 September.



On **27 August**, a symphonic programme held on the main stage sees Concours musical international de Montréal winner **Hao Zhou** perform Sibelius's *Violin Concerto*, alongside Elgar's *Enigma Variations* with the Orchestra Senzaspine conducted by Festival Artistic Director **Maximilian Fane**. A jazz night on **28 August**, **Florence Follies**, features singer **Veronica Swift** (a double winner in the Jazztimes 2019 Readers' Poll), working with pianist Sam Jewison, performing with some of America's best young jazz artists in an event co-produced by **Catskill Jazz Factory**. Each evening ends in late-night musical entertainment and revelry.



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 2019 audience ranged from 8 to 91 and over 50% of the opera audience was under 35. The 2019 festival sold over 2,000 tickets to a diverse and international audience that represented over 25 countries.



Located in the centre of Florence, the **Palazzo Corsini al Prato** is owned by the centuries-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 **New Generation Festival** was created by co-founders **Maximilian Fane** (Artistic Director), **Roger Granville** (Creative Director), and **Frankie Parham** (Executive Producer) alongside star soprano **Anush Hovhannisyan**, Head of Artistic Relations. The Festival is created with the support of **Princess Giorgiana Corsini** and other members of the Corsini family.



Mascarade Opera Studio

In **September 2020**, New Generation Festival will offer year-round opportunity to budding opera singers as the Festival launches an international **Mascarade Opera**



Studio in Florence, 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 and the artistic advisory board includes Claudia Assmann, Christoph Boehmke, Susan Bullock, Jessica Cottis, Roger Granville, Anush Hovhannisyan, Sam McShane, Jonathan Papp, Frankie Parham, Jonathan Santagada and Carmen Santoro. 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 26 August, 19:45

Saturday 29 August, 19:45

Palazzo Corsini al Prato, Florence

Rossini *La Cenerentola*

Svetlina Stoyanova Angelina

Josh Lovell Don Ramiro

Gurgen Baveyan Dandini

Federico de Michelis Don Magnifico

Blaise Malaba Alidoro

Marvic Monteal Tisbe

Giorgia Paci Clorinda

Sándor Károlyi conductor

Jean-Romain Vesperini director

New Generation Festival Chorus

Orchestra Senzaspine

Thursday 27 August, 19:45

Palazzo Corsini al Prato

Sibelius *Violin Concerto in D minor*

Elgar *Enigma Variations*

Hao Zhou violin

Maximilian Fane conductor

Orchestra Senzaspine

Friday 28 August, 19:45

Palazzo Corsini al Prato

Florence Follies

Veronica Swift jazz singer

Sam Jewison pianist and singer

Young jazz artists from

Catskill Jazz Factory

Full details of late-night events to be announced closer to the Festival.

The New Generation Festival

The New Generation Festival (NGF) was founded in 2017 to promote emerging young artists from around the world. Taking place 26 – 29 August 2020 in Florence, Italy, The New Generation Festival will be taking over the Gardens of the Palazzo Corsini for its highly anticipated fourth year, creating an international platform for the most promising young musical talent.



After a triumphant third year, co-founders Maximilian Fane, Roger Granville and Frankie Parham, have collaborated with a diverse and young team for 2020's Festival, gathering some of the world's most exciting performers and rising stars. An annual event that breaks down barriers between generations, this is a Festival by a new generation of artists to inspire a new generation of audiences. Throughout the weekend, audiences will take to the Corsini Gardens in the heart of Florence for open-air musical and dramatic performances.



Growing significantly since its inaugural year in 2017, the Festival now sells over 2,000 tickets to a diverse and international audience that represented over 25 countries. Over the past three years, the Festival has worked with over 400 young artists, creatives and technicians in fields including stage management, costume and stage design, company management and stage direction.

The New Generation Festival prides itself on being an annual event that breaks down barriers between generations, and 2019 did just that: the ages of the Festival's audience ranged from 8 to 91 and over 50% of the audience for the opera performance was under 35. Inspired by the achievements of the Italian Renaissance, the NGF celebrates creativity and stimulates it through the connection of art forms, cultures and generations.

In 2019, the New Generation Festival expanded internationally, and now presents the finest talents in opera, music, theatre and the visual arts in a programme that runs throughout the year across spectacular locations, ranging from the Swiss mountains of Andermatt to its flagship summer festival in Florence. Hosting three festivals and a young artist recital series over Andermatt Concert Hall's first season, the New Generation Festival team have presented artists including Daniel Barenboim and orchestras such as the Berliner Philharmoniker and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

The New Generation Festival team now collaborate at the highest level with competitions and organisations across the world, including: the Concours musical international de Montréal (CMIM), The Solti Accademia, The Royal Academy of Music, and the Concorso Lirico Internazionale di Portofino (CLIP).

In collaboration with Mascarade Opera Studio, the New Generation Festival hosts a Summer School for talented singers from conservatoires across Europe to study with leading professional teachers and coaches. As well as daily in-depth individual coaching sessions, voice lessons, performance classes, performance psychology workshops, a public masterclass and a lunchtime concert, participants in the Summer School form the chorus for the NGF main stage productions.

"A wonderful night at the opera."

Oper! das Magazin

"NGF is bound to become an important platform, showcasing the best in singing talent from all over the world."

Opera Now

"the fine selection of wonderfully harmonious young voices creates a Mozartean ensemble of the highest standard."

Concerti Magazin

newgenerationfestival.org

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