

The ReGeneration Festival 2020

Grand open-air celebrations in the Boboli Gardens of Florence's Palazzo Pitti for this year's transformed New Generation Festival

"Extraordinary times call for an extraordinary artistic response"



Wednesday 26 August – Saturday 29 August 2020
Boboli Gardens, Pitti Palace, Florence

In an exceptional manifestation of hope and renewal, the 4th edition of **The New Generation Festival** will be transformed into **The ReGeneration Festival**, co-presented with the **Uffizi Galleries** and in association with the **City of Florence** at the landmark **Palazzo Pitti and Boboli Gardens**, from 26 August – 29 August 2020.

Introducing a budding cast of tomorrow's stars in a staged production of the Cinderella story in **Rossini's magical *La Cenerentola***, the ReGeneration Festival will host opera, jazz with Anush Hovhannisyanyan, and concerts at the Palazzo Pitti in collaboration with **Musica con le Ali** and in the charming ornamental gardens of Palazzo Corsini al Prato.

It is fitting that the **city of the Renaissance** should now set the stage for another to be reborn. Extraordinary times call for an extraordinary artistic response. The ReGeneration Festival will demonstrate the restorative power of the arts in the face of a global pandemic.

The unprecedented four-day programme of concerts and productions will be offered to audiences **entirely for free** and will be broadcast both online and on-air.

Strict COVID-19 protocols will keep artists and audiences safe throughout the rehearsal period and festival. The New Generation Festival will stage a unique celebration of creativity that **conforms to the requirements of social distancing** and follows rigorous health and safety protocols, including temperature checks and obligatory masks. The festival will also encourage spectators to wear original social-distancing outfits and bygone crinoline dresses as magnificent sartorial adoptions of safety measures that marry form and function in the tradition of the great Renaissance carnivals.

Performed on 26 and 29 August 2020 at the Palazzo Pitti, 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**. Video mapping designed by **Etienne Guiol** and lighting by **Christophe Chaupin** will transport audiences to the Royal Court of the French King Louis XIV, with the costumes of **Anna Maria Heinrich** also drawing on the Renaissance theme.

The young cast is completed with Gurgen Baveyan (Dandini), Daniel Mirosław (Don Magnifico), Blaise Malaba (Alidoro), Marvic Monreal (Tisbe) and 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) and Opernstudio Frankfurt (Gurgen Baveyan). The international cast performing at the outset of their careers are drawn from seven countries around the world.

The roaring twenties come to Florence with iconic moments of Broadway and Hollywood in **The Three Divas** on 28 August 2020, featuring singer Veronica Swift (a double winner in the *Jazztimes* 2019 Readers' Poll), Anush Hovhannisyanyan, Shenel Johns, Sam Jewison, Yasushi Nakamura, Dominick Farinacci and Dan Tepfer, in an event co-produced with Piers Playfair, founder of the **Catskill Jazz Factory**.

Each evening will end in late-night musical entertainment and revelry, in the Boboli Gardens and in the festival's usual home, the centuries-old Palazzo Corsini al Prato across the river.

Dr Eike D. Schmidt, Director of the Uffizi Galleries, said:

"After the enormous success of the collaborations between the Uffizi Galleries with the Maggio Musicale, with the Musica con le Ali association – which offers two festivals every year in the Sala Bianca – and now also with the Florence Conservatoire which for some weeks has been staging concerts for visitors to the Palazzo Pitti every Saturday morning, now the relationship that the Uffizi Galleries has with music is intensifying and strengthening even more. This is thanks to The ReGeneration Festival: a great event that will enchant the Boboli Gardens during the week in which, among other things, we will have the anniversary of the coronation of Cosimo I as Grand Duke of Tuscany (27 August 1569)."

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 out to a diverse and international audience that represented over 25 countries.

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 Hovhannisyanyan, Head of Artistic Relations. The Festival is created with the support of Princess Giorgiana Corsini and other members of the Corsini family.

From September 2020, a new **Mascarade Opera Studio** will be established by the New Generation Festival at Palazzo Corsini al Prato, providing emerging singers with a nine-month residency tailor-made to their needs.

The ReGeneration Festival Listings

Wednesday 26 August 2020

Saturday 29 August 2020

The Boboli Gardens, Palazzo Pitti

Rossini *La Cenerentola*

Svetlina Stoyanova Angelina

Josh Lovell Don Ramiro

Gurgen Baveyan Dandini

Daniel Mirosław 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 2020

Mozart *Le nozze di Figaro Overture*

Haydn *Cello Concerto No. 1 in C major,
Hob. VIIb/1*

Beethoven *Symphony No. 7 in A major,
Op. 92*

Daniele Rustioni conductor

Erica Piccotti cello

The Italian Youth Orchestra

Friday 28 August 2020

The Boboli Gardens, Palazzo Pitti

The Three Divas

Veronica Swift jazz vocalist and tap
dancer

Anush Hovhannisyan soprano

Shenel Johns jazz singer

Sam Jewison pianist and singer

Young jazz artists from

Catskill Jazz Factory

Full details of all 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 returns 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.

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

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.

The **Mascarade Opera Studio Artists 2020** are:

- **Sopranos** Alexandria Wreggelsworth (USA), Marianna Hovhannisyan (Armenia)
- **Mezzo-sopranos** Gabrielė Kupšytė (Lithuania), Lauren Young (Scotland), Xenia Tziouvaras (USA)
- **Tenor** Ángel Vargas (Puerto Rico)
- **Baritone** Thandolwenkosi Zwane (Eswatini, Swaziland), Paweł Trojak (Poland)
- **Répétiteurs** Henry Websdale (UK), Kristina Yorgova (Bulgaria)



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