

Göteborg Opera's *Siegfried* from Stephen Langridge's sustainably-focused Ring cycle to premiere free online



**From Friday 26 to Wednesday 31 March 2021**  
From Göteborg Opera House, Gothenburg, Sweden

**Wagner *Siegfried* NEW PRODUCTION**

**Daniel Brenna** Siegfried  
**Dan Karlström** Mime  
**Anders Lorentzson / Fredrik Zetterström** The Wanderer  
**Ólafur Sigurdarson** Alberich

**Mats Almgren** Fafner  
**Hege Høisæter** Erda  
**Sofie Asplund** Woodbird  
**Ingela Brimberg** Brünnhilde

**Stephen Langridge** director  
**Evan Rogister** conductor  
**Göteborg Opera Orchestra**

**Alison Chitty** set and costume design  
**Paul Pyant** lighting design  
**Annika Lindqvist** movement instructor

Streaming online from: [opera.se](https://opera.se)

Ahead of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city of Gothenburg in 2021, the **Göteborg Opera** premieres the third instalment of Gothenburg's ground-breaking **Ring cycle**, an epic four-year sustainably-focused project, as director Stephen Langridge returns to Gothenburg to stage ***Siegfried***. Watch the trailer [here](#).

With the house currently closed to the public, *Siegfried* will premiere exclusively online from [opera.se](https://opera.se), with Act I available from Friday 26 March, Act II from Saturday 27 March, and the **full three acts from Sunday 28 March until Wednesday 31 March**. The production will be free to view, and sung in German with Swedish and English subtitles.

In *Siegfried*, Director **Stephen Langridge's** *Ring* cycle leaves the world of the gods for the world of humans as the orphaned Siegfried battles the dragon Fafner and learns the

meaning of fear in meeting Brünnhilde, in a staging which highlights the violation of nature and the continuing exploitation of the planet and its resources.

Stephen Langridge on this *Siegfried*:

*"It was an odd rehearsal period due to the restriction around Covid-19. We were all glad to be working when so many colleagues across Europe had lost all their work and income. To be able to sing, act, play, and share the experience with an audience, even if they are not present in the same room: what joy. Never again will we take it for granted. We adapted our ways of working, maintaining distance at all times on and off stage, and it's a tribute to the can-do attitude of the people at GöteborgsOperan, and the positive engagement of the brilliant cast, that we were able to continue and produce what we all hope will be an exciting digital version of Siegfried. We had hoped for a digital premiere before Christmas, but had to abandon that at short notice, before we had a chance to complete the recordings we had planned. The result, after much work and digital "knitting", is a version of our Siegfried unusually featuring two excellent singers playing Der Wanderer! I hope you will enjoy this third part of our journey, and look forward to being together again in a post-viral packed theatre next year for Götterdämmerung. As Brünnhilde would say: Hojatoho."*

Following in the footsteps of Birgit Nilsson, the great Wagnerian soprano, Sweden has produced some of the greatest Wagnerian voices in subsequent generations. Members of the outstanding Swedish cast include **Ingela Brimberg** as Brünnhilde, **Mats Almgren** as Fafner and **Sofie Asplund** as the woodbird, while Scandinavian stars **Olafur Sigurdarson** and **Hege Høisæter** return as Alberich and Erda.

Conductor **Evan Rogister** is joined by stellar American tenor **Daniel Brenna** who takes the title role. The Wanderer (Wotan) is performed by **Fredrik Zetterström** in act 1 and 2, and by **Anders Lorentzson** in act 3.

***"Vocally, and dramatically, this Rheingold has an intimacy and flexibility that sets it far apart from the static, heavyweight slugfests of the gloomiest Ring tradition."***

Boyd Tonkin (The Arts Desk)

The **environmentally-conscious production** addresses the themes of the cycle through a new lens: abuses of power, liberation, atonement and destruction see the earth robbed of its natural resources, its power converted for selfish gain and destruction.

Göteborg Opera has long championed **ecological sustainability** and is a leader among opera houses, using power from renewable sources, solar panels and more. Recycling is inherently built into Wagner's scores through his use of leitmotifs, making the Ring cycle with its themes of greed and destruction a natural candidate for the next step: a more environmentally sustainable production. In *Siegfried*, set materials and costumes are recycled from *Die Walküre* (2019), itself recycled from *Das Rheingold* (2018), and from sustainable sources and processes as far as possible.



**★★★★★ (Music) ★★★★★ (Staging)**

***"Stephen Langridge's staging is magnificently inventive. [...] The impact of this Walküre, however, is huge: a modern staging that speaks to all, and to the now. Magnificent."***

Colin Clarke (Opera Now)

Documenting the process, Göteborg Opera are redefining the values of a modern opera house and reinventing the terms for others to follow. They hope to find new, greener

solutions on the way for everything from body paint to theatrical flames. Positive spin-offs are already beginning to emerge and new techniques are already having an impact on the other productions.

Göteborg Opera's **four-year Ring cycle** will end in Winter 2021 with *Götterdämmerung*, with the grand finale marking the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city of Gothenburg, which was founded as a Dutch trading colony by King Gustavus Adolphus by royal charter in 1621.



[Watch Das Rheingold trailer](#)

[Watch Die Walküre trailer](#)

***"Physical and philosophical clarity was reflected in the singing; this is a truly integrated cycle that is proving a fertile meeting of fresh, talented artists. Langridge's concept now places a huge onus on our very own "human" Siegfried to get us out of this mess—or set an example while trying."***

Andrew Mellor (Opera News)

## Göteborg Opera

Gothenburg Opera House, a modern venue designed by Jan Izikowitz of Lund and Valentin, was opened in October 1994. Seating 1,300, it 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, including an ozone cabinet to clean delicate costumes. The orchestra, soloists, chorus and contemporary dance company perform opera, dance, and musicals, with a diverse programme allowing for audiences to experiment with all three art forms.

Gothenburg Opera strives to be efficient in all its operations when working with finite and 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:

- The Nordic Ecolabel restaurant endeavours wherever possible to use organic Fair Trade produce, and meat-free lunches are provided at least once a week to reduce the carbon footprint.
- Electricity consumption is taken from 100% renewable sources.
- Laundry providers and printers are Nordic Ecolabelled.
- Most of the lighting is LED, if not energy class B or better.
- Beehives on the roof of the Opera House – where there is a flower plantation – produce honey sold within the shop.



- 600 square meters of the roof (nearly 3 tennis courts) are covered in solar panels – supplying 107,000 kW per year.
- Sets and scenery are conceived as modular systems where the constituent parts can be reused multiple times.
- All waste is strictly sorted and all supplies are delivered in returnable crates, bottles and packaging.
- Genuine hair is used in wigs

[opera.se](http://opera.se)

---

**For more information on any of the above, please contact:**

**Nicky Thomas Media**

2-6 Baches St, London N1 6DN

+44 (0)20 3714 7594 | +44 (0)7768 566 530

[info@nickythomasmedia.com](mailto:info@nickythomasmedia.com)

[www.nickythomasmedia.com](http://www.nickythomasmedia.com)