



INTERNATIONAL ARTS | SPECIAL REPORT: FRONT ROW CENTER

Arts Guide

Top Performances of Opera, Music and Dance

Compiled by CHRISTOPHER D. SHEA OCT. 29, 2014

Highlights of the performance calendars at the world's major opera, dance and music halls through December.

Opera and ballet

Milan

Teatro Alla Scala teatroallascala.org

The British director Deborah Warner — who set a 2001 Glyndebourne production of Beethoven's "Fidelio" in a prison camp — will bring a new production of the work to the opera house from Dec. 10 to 23. The production is the final opera that Daniel Barenboim will conduct in his current role as music director. The theater will open its ballet season in December with a new rendering of "The Nutcracker" featuring two of the company's star performers, Roberto Bolle and Maria Eichwald.

Amsterdam

Dutch National Opera operaballet.nl

Benedict Andrews, the irreverent Australian director who paired Isabelle Huppert and Cate Blanchett in a recent production of Jean Genet's "The Maids" in New York, will direct a new production of "La Bohème" here in December. Though primarily a theater director, Mr. Andrews has staged several daring opera productions in recent years, including a video-heavy take on Monteverdi's "The Return of Ulysses" in London that framed the protagonist as a shell-shocked war veteran. The company will also revive popular productions of the ballets "Swan Lake" and "Cinderella" and the opera "Lohengrin."

*London**Royal Opera House roh.org.uk*

From Nov. 7 to 17, the Royal Ballet will stage a triple bill of works around the theme of World War II. The program includes “The Age of Anxiety,” a new ballet set in wartime New York City to music by Leonard Bernstein, created by the choreographer Liam Scarlett for the company. The house will also show the premiere of the Danish-German composer Soren Nils Eichberg’s new opera, “Glare,” a suspenseful tale of a man who falls in love with a robot (Nov. 14 to 22). Beginning Dec. 18, the opera will present a new production of Verdi’s rarely performed tragedy “Un Ballo in Maschera,” directed by the German director Katharina Thoma, who earned a mix of praise and vitriol for her 2013 debut at Glyndebourne, an “Ariadne auf Naxos” which updated much of the opera to a World War II hospital ward.

*Tokyo**New National Theater nntt.jac.go.jp*

The theater will have the premiere of a new production of Tchaikovsky’s ballet “The Sleeping Beauty” (Nov. 8 to 16), replacing a production in its repertoire since 1997. Wayne Eagling based the staging on the 1890 original by the French choreographer Marius Petipa. Yonezawa Yui stars as Aurora and the Royal Ballet principal Vadim Muntagirov plays the prince. The theater will also perform “Don Carlo” (Nov. 27 to Dec. 9) by the Swiss director Marco Arturo Marelli, and “Cinderella” as its Christmas ballet (Dec. 14 to 23).

*Sydney**Sydney Opera House sydneyoperahouse.com*

The Australian Ballet will perform “La Bayadère,” Ludwig Minkus’s 1877 ballet about a love-torn temple dancer in a mythical Indian kingdom (Nov. 6 to 22). The London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Valery Gergiev, its departing director, will visit from Nov. 24 to 26. From Nov. 19 to 22, the Finnish conductor Osmo Vanska will lead several evenings of Brahms. On Nov. 23, the composer Max Richter, known for his iconoclastic take on Vivaldi, “The Four Seasons Recomposed,” will make his Australian debut.

Moscow

Bolshoi Theater bolshoi.ru

The Bolshoi will for the first time mount Robert Carsen's production of "Rigoletto," a darkly comic rendering of Monteverdi's opera that opens in a circus, with a circle of sinister aristocrats goading the court jester Rigoletto toward his demise (Evelino Pidò conducts; opens Dec. 14). The theater will also show its re-staging of John Neumeier's ballet "The Lady of the Camellias," which opened here last spring; as well as an acclaimed production of "Eugene Onegin," which updates the action from the 19th century to the period between the Russian revolution and the 1960s.

*London**English National Opera eno.org*

A new opera by the American composer John Adams, "The Gospel According to the Other Mary," combines Old Testament texts on Christ's crucifixion with modern written sources by figures like the Holocaust survivor and activist Primo Levi and the philanthropist Dorothy Day. Peter Sellars will direct the opera's first full staging here Nov. 21 to Dec. 5. The company will also revive its 1930s-set production of "La Bohème." The opera opened to mixed reviews when Jonathan Miller directed it in 2009, framing the leads as members of the gentry who adopted bohemian ways when it suited them. It received a warmer reception when restaged by Natascha Metherell.

*Tel Aviv**Israeli Opera israel-opera.co.il*

Katharina Thalbach's lively production of "The Barber of Seville," which updates the action to a 20th-century landscape, will appear for the first time in Israel, following its original staging at the Deutsche Oper Berlin (Nov. 21 to Dec. 7). The house will host two late-autumn concerts, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra playing Handel's Messiah, and the resident Israel Symphony Orchestra performing Mahler's "Symphony of a Thousand," so called for its orchestral firepower. From Dec. 12 to 15, the Japanese company Sankai Juku will perform "Tobari," a slow-form Butoh performance led by eight dancers painted white with shaved heads.

Melbourne

Opera Australia opera.org.au

Opera Australia, which splits its season between the Arts Center Melbourne and the Sydney Opera House, will present three shows in the southern city this autumn. The director John Bell's production of "Tosca," set in Mussolini's Italy as the Germans seize control, opens Nov. 12. Two light operas follow: Donizetti's "Don Pasquale" and Verdi's "Falstaff," featuring Warwick Fyfe in the title role.

*Music**Kawasaki, Japan**Muza Kawasaki Symphony Hall kawasaki-sym-hall.jp*

The hall will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Dec. 7 with the English conductor Jonathan Nott leading the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra in Mahler's Eighth Symphony. In addition to concerts by the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne, the hall will also host much of the Montreux Jazz Festival Kawasaki. This offshoot of the Swiss jazz festival mixes domestic performances with international acts like the singer Natalie Cole.

*Seoul**Seoul Arts Center sac.or.kr*

Mariss Jansons, who transformed Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw into a major orchestra in his years as artistic director, will lead the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra in two concerts — the first of Dvorak and Mussorgsky and the second of Strauss and Shostakovich (Nov. 18 and 19). The rotating house will host a string of other notable performances through the fall, including concerts by the Korean Broadcasting State Symphony Orchestra and the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields.

*Amsterdam**Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra concertgebouworkest.nl*

Daniele Gatti, who this month was named the company's new chief conductor, will make his first appearance with three performances of Mahler's Sixth Symphony, which will then be followed by three mixed programs featuring the star violinist Leonidas Kavakos (begins Nov. 27). The current chief

conductor, Mariss Jansons, will conduct performances including Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" (Dec. 17 and 18) and a Christmas day concert of Mahler's Fourth Symphony.

Berlin

Berlin Philharmonic berliner-philharmoniker.de

On Nov. 9, the artistic director Simon Rattle will conduct Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Karol Szymanowski's mournful "Stabat mater" to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Russian National Orchestra will present an evening of Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich; Kirill Petrenko will conduct three performances of Mahler's Sixth Symphony; and Tugan Sokhiev will conduct several evenings of work by Russian composers.

Dance

Paris

Théâtre de la Ville theatredelaville-paris.com

From Nov. 17 to 26, the Ballet de l'Opéra de Lyon will show works by the choreographers William Forsythe and Benjamin Millepied, the new director of dance at the Paris Opera Ballet. From Nov. 4 to 11, the house will host a theater piece, "Go Down, Moses," the Italian director Romeo Castellucci's new look at the life of Moses (in Italian with French supertitles). The fall lineup also includes a performance by Akram Khan's company and "Manger," a new work for 14 dancers by the French choreographer Boris Charmatz.

London

Sadler's Wells sadlerswells.com

The choreographers Akram Khan and Israel Galván will show and perform in the British premiere of their work "TOROBAKA," a two-person piece in which Mr. Khan (who draws heavily from South Asian dancing styles) and Mr. Galván (a flamenco dancer) face off on stage (Nov. 3 to 8). The Ye Gam Theater from South Korea will perform "Jump," an acrobatic riff on martial arts tropes, from Oct. 28 to Nov. 15, and the Cullberg Ballet will show the rising choreographer Jefta van Dintner's "Plateau Effect," which combines classical choreographic elements with pulsating house music.

*Festival Houses**Budapest**Palace of Arts mupa.hu*

The Compagnia Finzi Pasca — which melds dance, acrobatics and juggling in its dreamlike circus works — will present a show dedicated to the playwright Anton Chekhov (Nov. 4 to 9). Budapest’s interdisciplinary palace has a typically packed fall season: Helmuth Rilling will conduct Brahms’s “A German Requiem”; James Judd will lead the Hungarian National Philharmonic in a performance; and both the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics will play guest concerts.

*Berlin**Haus der Berliner Festspiele berlinerfestspiele.de*

The Deutsche Oper Berlin will present two performances of the actress and director Fiona Shaw’s widely heralded, pared-down production of Benjamin Britten’s 1946 opera “The Rape of Lucretia” (Nov. 14, Nov. 16). Other events include the choreographer Sasha Waltz’s “Jagden und Formen (Zustand 2008),” which Ms. Waltz developed with the Ensemble Modern music ensemble; and the citywide Jazzfest, which runs through Nov. 2.

*Shanghai**Shanghai Grand Theater shgtheatre.com*

“Hello Earth,” Marco Goecke’s stark, sleek production of 12 dancers clad in neutral colors, will appear as part of two mixed bills performed by the Nederlands Dans Theater. The evenings are part of Shanghai’s International Arts Festival through Nov. 16. Other festival events include the Orchestra dell’Academia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia playing extracts from Verdi, Dvorak and Brahms, and performances of traditional Chinese opera.

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