



## **Göteborg Opera celebrates their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with new productions of Otello and Peter Grimes**



**23 November 2024 – 12 January  
2025**

**Verdi** *Otello*

**Michael Weinius** Otello (23/11–29/12,  
12/1)

**Tomas Lind** Otello (3–9/1)

**Jens Søndergaard** Jago

**Adam Frandsen** Cassio

**Tobias Westman** Roderigo

**Mats Almgren** Lodovico

**Orhan Yildiz** Montano

**Richard Laby** A herald

**Julia Sporsén** Desdemona (23/11–  
29/12, 12/1)

**Carolina Sandgren** Desdemona (3–  
9/1)

**Ann-Kristin Jones** Emilia

**Vincenzo Milletari** Conductor

**Rafael R. Villalobos** Direction and  
Costume Design

**Emanuele Sinisi** Set Design

**Felipe Ramos** Lighting Design

**Jose Ruiz** Movement Instructor

**Arancha Rodrigálvarez** Costume  
Design Assistant

**The Göteborg Opera Chorus  
The Göteborg Opera Orchestra  
Extra chorus**

**The Göteborg Opera Children's Choir**

**8 March 2025 – 10 April 2025**

**Britten** *Peter Grimes*

**Joachim Bäckström** Peter Grimes

**Matilda Sterby** Ellen Orford

**Åke Zetterström** Balstrode

**Katarina Karnéus** Aunt

**Sofie Asplund** Niece 1

**Mia Karlsson** Niece 2

**Daniel Ralphsson** Bob Boles

**Mats Almgren** Swallow

**Katarina Giotas** Mrs. Sedley

**Tobias Westman** Horace Adams

**Hannes Öberg** Ned Keene

**Kristian Lindroos** Hobson

**Christoph Gedschold** Conductor

**Netia Jones** Direction

**Netia Jones and Lightmap** Set,  
Costume And Video Design

**Ellen Ruge** Lighting Design

**The Göteborg Opera Chorus**

**The Göteborg Opera Orchestra  
Extra Chorus**



To mark its **30<sup>th</sup> anniversary** in 2024, Göteborg Opera announces its **2024-25 Season** with two new productions of **Verdi's *Otello* directed by Rafael Villalobos** and **Britten's *Peter Grimes* directed by Netia Jones** (her first time). Their thrilling programme, also, includes a revival of the "Brescia version" of ***Madama Butterfly***, and a double bill of **Mozart's *Der Schauspieldirektor*** and **Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta***, alongside revivals of **Bizet's *Carmen*** and **Puccini's *Tosca***. Since its inauguration in 1994, the Göteborg Opera has built a new audience for opera with innovative, edgy programming without exclusively resorting to the standard staples of the repertoire. It has also pioneered an environmental strategy for which they received an Opera Award in 2022.

### **23 November 2024 – 12 January 2025**

#### **Verdi *Otello***

Verdi's masterpiece exploring rage and obsession is **staged in Gothenburg for the first time in 55 years**. Celebrated Swedish Court singer **Michael Weinius** makes his role debut as Otello, his dream role, which made him want to become an opera singer as a young boy at the Royal Opera in Stockholm. Gothenburg-born **Julia Sporsén** sings the role of Desdemona. **Sporsén has gained national acclaim in recent years**, most notably being the 2023 recipient of **Svenska Dagbladet's Operapris** (a Swedish cultural award for a significant contribution in opera or dance), which was awarded to her after her success as the title role in *Norma* at Folkoperan in 2022. The 60-strong opera chorus portrays a condemning and divisive society, conducted by **Vincenzo Milletari**.

Behind the production, which takes place in a stark, isolated setting, is award-winning director **Rafael R. Villalobos** and set designer **Emanuele Sinisi**. Villalobos and Sinisi are long time collaborators who are leading the artistic team for this production of *Otello*. This particular staging is a study of the title role through a sociological lens focusing on Otello as an outsider. The surrounding stigma placed by society on Otello shapes his behaviour and paves the way to his violence and rage.

### **8 March 2025 – 10 April 2025**

#### **Britten *Peter Grimes***

Benjamin Britten's first and most popular opera, ***Peter Grimes***, is a masterpiece exploring mistrust, guilt and vulnerability in closed communities. Set against the backdrop of the unrelenting sea, the small community with its judgemental inhabitants are the protagonists of the drama. Peter Grimes, a fisherman who is acquitted of murder charges but condemned by the villagers, is portrayed by **Joachim Bäckström**. Peter's only confidant, Ellen Orford, is sung by **Matilda Sterby**.

This production, inspired by the Swedish west coast, is directed by British award-winning director and video designer **Netia Jones**. Daughter of an organist father and an artist mother, Ms Jones was smitten by a production of Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes* when she was ten; an internship at English National Opera reinforced that obsession. *"I was always fascinated by the idea of a visual world and a musical world coming together to make something else,"* she says. This will be the first time she directs the opera. Jones comments, *"Gothenburg is an ideal place for this fantastic piece. I'm so excited to be doing it outside of the UK, which opens it up in a new way, and with this fantastic cast."*

In 2009, The Observer named her to its Hot 100 list describing her as *"the most imaginative director of opera working in Britain today"* with *"impeccable creative vision."* The opera will be conducted by **Christoph Gedschold**, Chief Conductor of the Copenhagen Phil and music director at the Leipzig Opera.



Henning Ruhe, Artistic Director Opera/Drama comments about the 2024/25 season, *"This season, we celebrate 30 years of fantastic experiences together. Art is an expression of free thought, and we encourage you to imagine – everything. Nothing is false. Everything and nothing is true. Where does our imagination begin? Welcome to the dream factory by the river!"*

## Göteborg Opera: Sustainability Award at the 2022 International Opera Awards



**The Göteborg Opera** won the award for Sustainability at the International Opera Awards 2022 Gala at Teatro Real in Madrid. To accept the award was Göteborg Opera CEO **Christina Björklund** and Artistic Director for Opera/Drama, **Henning Ruhe**.

Göteborg Opera has long championed **ecological sustainability** and is a leader among opera houses, using power from renewable sources, solar panels and more. Göteborg 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 Göteborg Opera has worked according to the ISO 14001 environmental management system since 2004, which means constant, systematic, strategic efforts to reduce the organisation's environmental impact.
- The Nordic Ecolabel restaurant endeavours wherever possible to use organic and Fair-Trade produce, and works actively with trying to reduce the climate-impact from food.
- Electricity consumption is taken from 100% renewable sources.
- Laundry providers and printers are Nordic Eco labelled.
- Most of the lighting is LED, including in the lighting rig, and as much as possible of the lights' positioning is prepared digitally in a visualisation studio.
- 600 square meters of the roof (nearly 3 tennis courts) are covered in solar panels supplying 107,000 kW per year.
- Reuse and recycling is an integrated part of the house's set and costume design processes, with an inventory system for sets and costumes and a module system for scenery elements such as stairs, walls, trolleys that can be reused multiple times.
- All waste is strictly sorted, including food waste which is converted into biogas-
- The four-year production of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* 2018–2021, directed by Stephen Langridge, where the entire house was encouraged to find new solutions for environmentally more sustainable performing arts, aroused great enthusiasm, not least internationally, and employees of the Göteborg Opera have since been invited to speak at various European industry conferences.



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* (2020) and *Götterdämmerung* (2021), set materials and costumes are recycled from *Die Walküre* (2019), itself recycled from *Das Rheingold* (2018), and from sustainable sources and processes.

Within social sustainability, initiatives for sustainable working life are run, for example "The Sustainable Dancer" and collaborations with Save the Children and other parts of civil society.

The Göteborg Opera have redefined the values of a modern opera house and reinventing the terms for others to follow. They hope to continue to find new, greener solutions on the way for everything from body paint to theatrical flames. And further positive spin-offs are already beginning to emerge and new techniques are already having an impact on the other productions.

*"Art is a vital part of our lives and constantly a mirror of the world around us. As our planet faces challenges, sustainable working methods are essential to ensure that our art will continue to flourish and meet new audiences in the future as well."*

**Henning Ruhe, Artistic Director**



## THE GÖTEBORG OPERA

**The Göteborg Opera** in its modern venue designed by Jan Izikowitz of Lund and Valentin was opened in October 1994. It seats 1,300 and 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. The orchestra and chorus are fully adaptable for opera, dance and musicals and the diverse programme allows for the audience to experiment with all three art forms.



### Season listings 2024-25

#### 24 August-12th October, 2024

##### **Carmen**

Opera in three acts by Georges Bizet (1838-1875). Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy, based on a novella by Prosper Mérimée.

**Katerina Giotas** mezzo-soprano  
**Joachim Bäckström** tenor  
**Adam Frandsen** tenor  
**Luthando Qave** baritone  
**Matilda Sterby** soprano  
**Orhan Yildiz** baritone  
**Daniel Ralphsson** tenor  
**Kristian Lindroos** bass-baritone  
**Sami Yousri** bass  
**Henrik Andersson**  
**Mia Karlsson** soprano  
**Ann-Kristin Jones** mezzo-Soprano  
**Florian Teatiu** dancer

#### 9 September-29 September, 2024

##### **The Ring Cycle at Bio Roy**

Musical drama by Richard Wagner (1813-1883). Libretto by the composer.

**Das Rheingold** 10 September, 17:00  
**Die Walküre** 11 September, 17:00  
**Siegfried** 17 September, 17:00  
**Götterdämmerung** 29 September, 13:00

**Anders Lorentzson** bass  
**Mats Persson** baritone  
**Tomas Lind** tenor  
**Brenden Gunnell** tenor  
**Ólafur Sigurdarson** baritone

**Daniel Ralphsson** tenor  
**Henning von Schulman** bass  
**Mats Almgren** bass  
**Katarina Karnéus** mezzo-soprano  
**Carolina Sandgren** soprano  
**Hege Høisæter** mezzo-soprano  
**Mia Karlsson** soprano  
**Frida Engström** soprano  
**Ann-Kristin Jones** mezzo-soprano

##### **THE SEVEN NARRATORS**

**Sara Suneson, Sara Wikström, Ivan Dajic, Jérôme Delbey, Rasmus Hanák, Mio Netzler Liljedahl, Herbjörn Thordarson**

#### 26 September-13 October

##### **Tosca**

Opera in three acts by Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924). Libretto Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giocosa, based on the play La Tosca by Victorien Sardou.

**Carolina Sandgren** soprano  
**Tomas Lind** tenor  
**John Lundgren** baritone  
**Kristian Lindroos** bass-baritone  
**Mats Almgren** bass  
**Daniel Ralphsson** tenor  
**Herbjörn Thordarson** bass-baritone  
**Daniel Hayes** bass

#### 23 November-12 January, 2024-2025

##### **Otello**

Opera in four acts by Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901). Libretto by Arrigo Boito, based on a tragedy by William Shakespeare.





**Michael Weinius** tenor  
**Thomas Lind** tenor  
**Jens Søndergaard** baritone  
**Adam Frandsen** tenor  
**Tobias Westman** tenor  
**Mats Almgren** bass  
**Orhan Yildiz** baritone  
**Richard Laby** bass  
**Julia Sporsén** soprano  
**Carolina Sandgren** soprano  
**Ann-Kristin Jones** mezzo-soprano

**18 January-24 May, 2025**

**Madama Butterfly**

Opera in two acts by Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924). Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, based on a melodrama by David Belasco. Brescia version.

**Ida Falk Winland** soprano  
**Ann-Kristin Jones** mezzo-soprano  
**Natallia Salavei** alto  
**Adam Frandsen** tenor  
**Davide Giusti** tenor  
**Luthando Qave** baritone  
**Åke Zetterström** baritone  
**Daniel Ralphsson** tenor  
**Kristoffer Töyrä** bass-baritone  
**Ryan Williams** tenor

**8 March-10 April, 2025**

**Peter Grimes**

Opera in three acts by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976). Libretto by Montagu Slater, based on a story by George Crabbe.

**Joachim Bäckström** tenor  
**Matilda Sterby** soprano  
**Åke Zetterström** baritone  
**Katarina Karnéus** mezzo-soprano  
**Sofie Asplund** soprano  
**Mia Karlsson** soprano  
**Daniel Ralphsson** tenor  
**Mats Almgren** bass  
**Katarina Giotas** mezzo-soprano  
**Tobias Westman** tenor  
**Hannes Öberg** baritone  
**Kristian Lindroos** bass-baritone

**4 May-25 May, 2025**

**Der Schauspieldirektor and Iolanta**

Der Schauspieldirektor: Comedy in one act with music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791). Libretto by Gottlieb Stephanie the Younger Swedish translation by Staffan Aspegren. Iolanta:

Opera in one act by Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1893). Libretto by Modest Tchaikovsky, based on a play by Henrik Hertz.

**Kerstin Avemo** soprano  
**Mia Karlsson** soprano  
**Tobias Westman** tenor  
**Sami Yousri** bass  
**Kristian Lindroos** bass-baritone  
**Mats Almgren** bass  
**Luthando Qave** baritone  
**Katarina Giotas** mezzo-soprano



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