



Augmented Reality Season 20–21

Press Kit

20 – 21: An augmented reality

The 2020-2021 season of the Grand Théâtre de Genève falls under the sign of **augmented reality**. Emotions, reflections, feelings, questioning ... opera awakens all the senses of reality by ennobling both the experience and the spectator. The season's brochure opens with these words from artist Marina Abramović: "I started to believe in the existence of parallel realities. I think that the reality that we see now has a particular frequency and that we are all on the same frequency, which makes us visible to each other, but that it is also possible to change the frequency. To enter a new reality. And I believe there are hundreds of these realities." **Crossing walls: Memories**

The visual artistic direction of the 2020-2021 season is led by **John Armleder**, personality of the ECART movement and planetary Geneva artist. He has created a series of wallpapers, comprising many patterns, which can be composed, played and replayed. An elastic plastic device.

Many new productions

The 2020-2021 programme includes **5 new productions**: *Turandot* by director Daniel Kramer, *La Clemenza di Tito* by Milo Rau, *Parsifal* by Michael Thalheimer, *Dido and Aeneas* by Franck Chartier and the duo Peeping Tom, and *La Traviata* by Karin Henkel. Two productions come from the Opera Vlaanderen, formerly led by Aviel Cahn: the *Makropulos Affair* by Janáček with Kornél Mundruczó as director and Debussy's *Pelléas and Mélisande* by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Damien Jalet as directors and choreographers.

Golden Baton

A rare moment in the recent history of the Grand Théâtre, the artistic and musical director of the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Jonathan Nott, is coming to conduct two productions this season: *Parsifal* by Wagner and *Pelléas and Mélisande* by Debussy. This will be a completely new collaboration. In line with its musical tradition, the OSR continues to be invited in a ballet, in this case *The Rite of Spring*. In the orchestra pit, Emmanuelle Haïm will be conductor in *Dido and Aeneas* with her ensemble Concert d'Astrée.

Swissness

Swiss artists also occupy the top of the bill with directors Milo Rau (*La Clemenza di Tito*) and the famous tenor Bernard Richter, who will sing the title role of Titus, Marie-Claude Chappuis, who will be the voice of Dido, Rachel Harnisch as Emilya Marty in *Makropoulos case*, mezzo-soprano Yvonne Naef in *Candide* and *Pelléas et Mélisande* and finally Titus Engel, who returns for *Candide*, after having masterfully directed *Einstein on the Beach*.

"I started to believe in the existence of parallel realities. I think that the reality that we see now has a particular frequency and that we are all on the same frequency, which makes us visible to each other, but that it is also possible to change the frequency. To enter a new reality. And I believe there are hundreds of these realities."

Marina Abramović, *Crossing walls: Memories*

The Operas

The 2020-2021 season begins with an aesthetic firework display, **Puccini's Turandot** revisited by the enfant terrible of English-speaking stages, Daniel Kramer. With Tokyo-based artists' group teamLab, he will showcase a psychedelic and philosophical perspective (15-26 September, 2020). After **Aida**, Antonino Fogliani will give substance to this unfinished work by Puccini, in the version completed by Luciano Berio. After too long an absence, Robert Wilson returns to Geneva with **The Messiah** in an ethereal, almost unreal version, paying homage to Handel's oratorio reworked by Mozart. The Musicians of the Louvre will be led by Marc Minkowski in this co-production with the Salzburg Festival and the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées (4-5 October, 2020). Performed for the first time at the Grand Théâtre, **The Makropulos Affair** by **Leoš Janáček** evokes the journey of a diva between the elixir of youth and misfortune. This production, already presented by the Opera Vlaanderen, is staged by Kornél Mundruczó in a setting that emphasizes video art. The Czech composer's music will be conducted by a compatriot, Tomáš Netopil (26 October - 6 November, 2020). For the year-end celebrations, the Grand Théâtre welcomes the beautiful **Candide** by **Leonard Bernstein**, a blend of opera, operetta and musical. The work will be directed by the Australian, Barrie Kosky, combining humour, minimal decor, perfunctory choreography and chiselled stagecraft. After opening the 2019-2020 season, Titus Engel will conduct the OSR, the Grand Théâtre Choir and the title role, played by Paul Appleby (11-23 December, 2020). A cosmic and dreamlike moment, **Pelléas and Mélisande** will provide a beautiful reflection of the Grand Théâtre's Milky Way. The star, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, and the rising star, Damien Jalet, embody the choreography and Marina Abramović creates the production's kinetic and dreamlike decors. In the pit, the OSR's musical and artistic director, Jonathan Nott, will be able to uplift the French fingerwork of Orchestre de la Suisse romande, promising a total work of art as much as an intimate exchange (18-28 January, 2021). **Mozart's La Clemenza di Tito** is this time presented by a Swiss personality on the European scene, Milo Rau. The director will remove the self-righteous masks of the powerful, led by Titus, embodied by the other Swiss, Bernard Richter, who needs no introduction. Former with Currentzis' assistant Maxim Emelyanychev promises a lively performance in this chamber work (19 February - 3 March, 2021). Religion and spirituality are all to be found in the new production of **Wagner's Parsifal**, by Michael Thalheimer, between the twilight of idols and the forgiveness of peers. Here again, the OSR's appointed leader will conduct the work, like Armin Jordan and Horst Stein before him. The title role is sung by the great Wagnerian tenor Daniel Brenna, Amfortas by Josef Wagner and Kundry by Tanja Ariane Baumgartner (30 March - 11 April, 2021). After **King Arthur**'s immense success at the Opéra des Nations, British baroque returns with **Purcell's Dido and Aeneas**, which will be in the hands of Franck Chartier and the creative Belgian duo, Peeping Tom. A specialist in the Baroque repertoire, Emmanuelle Haim, will conduct the orchestra and choir of the Astrée Concert alongside the dancers of the Belgian company (2-11 May, 2021). Completing the second season of Aviel Cahn at the Grand Théâtre will be an opera at the Bâtiment des Forces Motrices: **La Traviata** by **Verdi**. Here again, a woman is in the spotlight, and we are not talking about Violetta Valéry, but director Karin Henkel who will add her incisive appraisal and analytical finesse to the Verdi hit. The singers forming the double cast, the OSR and the Grand Théâtre Choir will be in the good hands of Verdi virtuoso, Paolo Carignani (20 June -3 July, 2021).

The Ballets

The presence of the OSR, the setting for Keersmaeker, Foniadakis and Cherkaoui, the ingredients 2019-2020, are all again on the menu for the 2020-2021 dance season. As a starter, **Hors Cadre** is made up of the creation of the world from South African Fana Tshabalala's, **Better Sun**, and Cherkaoui's **Exhibition**, based on **The Pictures of an Exhibition** by Moussorgski (21-29 November, 2020). After the success of **Six Brandenburg Concertos**, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker and her company Rosas return this time to enhance the relentless rhythm of **Drumming**, by Steve Reich (18-21 March, 2021). The riot on the occasion of the premiere of **The Rite of Spring** by Igor Stravinsky, led by Pierre Monteux (one wonders if Ernest Ansermet should have created it) is well known. The work is so emblematic that two choreographers attempt it in **Le Sacre²**: Andonis Foniadakis (cover of 2013) and Jeroen Verbruggen, with **Massacre**, in the presence of the OSR, of course (26-31 May, 2021).

Recitals and Concerts

Colossus with a velvet voice, guardian figure among the basses, whose stamping ground takes in the Met, Bastille and Garnier, Unter den Linden and the Vienna Ring - **René Pape** has only come to Geneva twice. He now returns for an evening with Modeste Moussorgski and his **Songs and Dances of Death**, among others (7 October, 2020). A moment of intense intimacy, **Matthias Goerne's** recital promises a romantic Germanic inner ballad, playing Schubert and Beethoven (5 November, 2020). Stardust turned into a star herself, Pretty Yende glitters on stages all over the world. It has been a long journey since her Tamina in **The Magic Flute** at the Grand Théâtre in December 2013! Her galaxy extends from Violetta and Manon in Paris to Rosina and **The Daughter of the Regiment** at the Met. Now back in Geneva, for a stroll along the Milky Way in the company of Schumann, Rossini, R. Strauss and Paolo Tosti (7 May, 2021). **Ludovic Tézier**, baritone of excellence in French elegance, **Ludovic Tézier** invites the public to contemplate the music of the children of the 19th century: Liszt, Schubert, Schumann, Fauré and Berlioz, with two welcome intruders: Mozart and Jacques Ibert (6 June, 2021).

Concert of the Year: edition II. For 31 December, the Kammerorchester Basel is accompanying a beautiful star, the mezzo-soprano **Gaëlle Arquez**, who has sung Carmen everywhere: London, Frankfurt, Bregenz, Madrid, Munich, etc. There is no doubt that her passages from Offenbach will warm hearts in December. Alongside the French, Mozart, Rossini and Vivaldi will also be sung by Gianluca Capuano (31 December, 2020).

With **Saint Francis of Assisi** and **The Messiah** in 2020, **Parsifal** in 2021, spirituality continues to occupy the Grand Théâtre, with Mendelssohn's **Paulus** oratorio providing an excellent occasion to reveal the Choir of the Théâtre de Neuve as well as the Masters from the CPMDT and the Orchestre de Chambre de Genève, conducted by Hervé Niquet. Among the leading voices at Saint Peter's Cathedral, we should mention the soprano Polina Pastirchak (21 January, 2021).

La Plage

A new component of the Grand Théâtre since the arrival of Aviel Cahn, **La Plage** has been very successful, with many sold-out events, such as Late Nights, guided tours, the young audience show, **Cenerentolina**, and the Grand Brunches. All formats are being renewed, such as Aperitifs, Backstage Visits and the Voilà Voilà Debriefings. **Open Doors** resumes service (13 September, 2020, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.), as well as the **Beneath the Stars** projection, this time with **Turandot** (19 June, 2021).

Among the **new features**, we have a new platform project that reinvents opera, the **Opera Lab**, which for several months has brought together alumni from various disciplines around the creation of a lyrical work from A to Z (3-5 September, 2020). For the young nocturnal saplings, a **Sleepover** is planned under the gilding of the Grand Foyer, a long trip at the end of the night to experience this "Swiss cultural property of national importance" in a different way, from 10 pm to 10 am (28 May, 2021). Finally, **My first recital** invites the little ones to a short concert in SBS mode (Schumann, Beethoven & Schubert) with the possibility of singing - after having rehearsed at home - (November 21-27, 2020)!

As for **house productions**, György Ligeti presents his **Adventures and New Adventures** in a Vernier-like epic, free and tautological, from the age of 6 years. The Ensemble Contrechamps is led by Elena Schwarz, based on a concept created by Notuntersuchungen (11-13 December 2020). At the beginning of 2021, it's the turn of the **Tin Soldier (Tinsoldat)**, the story of a boy upset by adult problems, according to Andersen, and set to music by Jérémie Rhorer. A project for the little ones on the big stage of the Théâtre de Neuve, with Jan Sobrie directing and accompanied by the musicians of the HEM (26 February - 2 March).

Collaborations with artistic actors are reinforced, opening with a joint performance in the **Aubes musicales** at the Bains des Pâquis, where Jean-Paul Pruna and Julien Henric will awaken fuzzy minds with Ralph Vaughan Williams and Maurice Ravel (19 August, 2020). The Grand Théâtre also takes part in **Une Belge saison**, a programme which invites Cindy Van Acker, Jan Martens, Thomas Hauert and Peeping Tom under the auspices of La Bâtie, The Association for Contemporary Dance (ADC), La Comédie, and the Théâtre de l'Usine. Anne Teresa De Keersmaecker and Milo Rau take part in the Grand Théâtre season, and that of Vidy too, which is positive and provides a good reason to create Focus, a joint subscription around these two personalities of the stage. The theatrical series **You are here** directed by Dominique Perruchoud, Michèle Pralong and Julie Gilbert is a co-production that brings together 12 French-language theatres, tracing a path between individual awareness and common action.

Contacts

the press service

gtg.ch/presse

Switzerland and world

Olivier Gurtner
Head of service
o.gurtner@gtg.ch
+41 22 322 50 26

Isabelle Jornod
Assistant
i.jornod@gtg.ch
+41 22 322 50 55

France

Opus 64
Valérie Samuel
v.samuel@opus64.com
+33 1 40 267 794

Pablo Ruiz
p.ruiz@opus64.com
+33 1 40 267 794

Patricia Gangloff (Danse)
p.gangloff@opus64.com
+33 1 40 267 794

Germany

RW Medias
Ruth Wischmann
ruth.wischmann@gmx.de
+49 89 3000 47 59