



**Programme change
La Cenerentola to open the 2020-21 season.**

The Grand Théâtre de Genève opens the 2020-21 season with *La Cenerentola*, a Grand Théâtre co-production cancelled in May 2020 due to the pandemic, directed by Laurent Pelly and conducted by Antonino Fogliani. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, our new production of *Turandot* by Daniel Kramer and Team Lab has had to be replaced and will be presented during another season. The rest of the 2020-21 season is unchanged.

The Grand Théâtre de Genève was forced to postpone its new production of *Turandot* because Puccini's opera requires a large orchestra and chorus and above all because the Kramer/teamLab production involves oversized sets, the arrival of people from Asia as well as very extensive technical means and teams. Given the tight deadlines imposed by lockdown (particularly for the Grand Théâtre workshops), the Geneva opera stage is unable to present this production of Puccini's last opera. For this reason, the Grand Théâtre is substituting these performances with *La Cenerentola*, a co-production initially scheduled for May 2020, which was cancelled due to the pandemic. Rossini's opera has the advantage of requiring a smaller chorus and orchestra, which comply better with current health regulations.

La Cenerentola will be presented in a "witty and imaginative" production according to Thea Derks, in the spirit of this opera inspired by the well-known tale of Cinderella. Laurent Pelly has also designed the costumes, his faithful partner Chantal Thomas created the set design and Duane Schuler is on lights. This co-production, presented in December 2019 at the De Nationale Opera in Amsterdam, was a great success with both audience and critics. Laurent Pelly knows the story of Cinderella well, having directed it in Massenet's version, with a hugely successful production at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. At the Grand Théâtre, the Pumpkin Coach disappears in a staging that contrasts a sober interior with a glamorous and brilliant universe. The title role will be sung by Anna Goryachova, who has often appeared in Rossini's operas on the great stages of the world. Poor Angelina is bullied by her stepfather Don Magnifico, played by Carlo Lepore, but helped by the wise philosopher Alidoro (Simone Alberghini). Also to be noted is Edgardo Rocha, who will play Prince Don Ramiro, a Rossini tenor ideal for this role rich in top C's.

A regular guest on major opera stages across the world, Laurent Pelly is known to Grand Théâtre audiences for his finely honed comedies (*Viva la Mamma*, *Le Médecin malgré lui*, at the Opéra des Nations and *La Grande-Duchesse de Gérolstein*, at the Grand Théâtre). Winner of the 2016 Opera Awards for Best Director, Pelly knows how to alternate the comic twists of a work with its occasionally melancholy elements, drawing out its inner essence with a real sense of rhythm. He finds the character of Cinderella a little naive, but what defines her is her wholehearted opposition to the meanness around her through goodness alone. If there is one opera that give us hope to resist what draws us down and the unabashed nastiness of our virtual and physical worlds, if there is only one opera heroine to teach us simply to be kind, it is Angelina, our *Cenerentola*. Conductor **Antonino Fogliani**, expert in 19th century Italian opera, is back after having won the hearts of Geneva audiences with last autumn's *Aida*. He leads the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande through this *dramma giocoso*'s head-spinning ensembles and throat-busting coloraturas.

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