



Press release
Geneva, 22.10.2021

Aviel Cahn reappointed as General Manager of the Grand Théâtre de Genève for a further five years

The Executive Council of the City of Geneva and the Board of Trustees of the Grand Théâtre de Genève Foundation have confirmed Aviel Cahn, the current General Manager of the Grand Théâtre de Genève, in post for a second five-year term. His first term ends in 2024, following his appointment as head of the opera house for the 2019/2020 season. This second five-year term confirms him in post until 2029 and will allow him to continue and extend his successful work at the head of the largest cultural institution in French-speaking Switzerland.

Sami Kanaan, the member of the Executive Council responsible for culture, is delighted by the reappointment, “which confirms the high quality and relevance of the artistic strategy proposed by Aviel Cahn and will allow him to continue to develop the many artistic partnerships he has created between the opera house and Geneva’s cultural and social institutions.

For Xavier Oberson, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Grand Théâtre de Genève Foundation, “Geneva is very fortunate to have people of such openness, creativity and inventiveness.”

For its first season under Aviel Cahn, the Grand Théâtre de Genève won the prestigious “Best Opera House 2020” prize awarded by the leading opera magazine Opernwelt, acknowledging the innovative direction and artistic quality that marked the start of his term. Unfortunately, a number of major projects during Aviel Cahn’s first two seasons at the GTG were severely restricted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Extending his term at the start of his third season in Geneva is a chance for him to pick up both his programming and large-scale projects and continue the work he had begun.

Aviel Cahn, General Manager of the Grand Théâtre de Genève: “I am delighted to be able to pursue and develop the very promising work begun with the teams and artistic strengths of the GTG over the last two seasons and the current one, despite the severe impact of the health situation. I intend to pursue and deepen the artistic line I have taken since my appointment and the arrival of the great choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, to lead the Ballet du Grand Théâtre in the summer of 2022, will allow us to combine our visions and develop an interdisciplinary dialogue around a notion of total art. From an institutional perspective, I intend to pursue our policy of openness and audience diversification and enhance the opera house’s reputation both locally and internationally. I would like to thank the authorities for their trust in me and the teams at the GTG for their support and exceptional efforts.”

Aviel Cahn has led the Grand Théâtre de Genève since 2019 and is committed to opera and dance that are open to the city and other art forms. Born in Zurich in 1974, Aviel Cahn left Switzerland at the age of 26, following a solid musical education and a doctorate in law, to manage international relations at the Beijing Symphony Orchestra. He later became casting director at the Finnish National Opera and went on to lead the Bern Opera and Zurich Chamber Orchestra. At the age of 34, he was appointed director (Intendant) of the Flemish Opera in Antwerp and Ghent. His work and productions have been rewarded with several international prizes. He is currently Vice President of Opera Europa, the umbrella organisation for European opera houses.

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