

NEW NATIONAL THEATRE, TOKYO 2018/2019 SEASON

New National Theatre, Tokyo has appointed ONO Kazushi as the Artistic Director of Opera from the 2018/2019 Season. Here are his profile and highlights of his first Season.

Introducing ONO Kazushi Artistic Director of Opera from the 2018/2019 Season

Born in Tokyo. Graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts. Studied piano and composition under ANDO Hisayoshi and conducting under ENDO Masahisa. Studied under Wolfgang SAWALLISCH and Giuseppe PATANÈ at the Bayerische Staatsoper.

In 1987, he won the Arturo Toscanini International Competition for Conductors. Since then, he has continued to charm audiences with guest appearances at opera performances and symphony concerts around the world.

He served as the **musical director of the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra** in Croatia from 1990 to 1996. From 1996 to 2002, he served as the **general musical director at Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe** in Germany. Having served as the resident conductor of the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra from 1992 to 1999, he is currently the Orchestra's Honorary Conductor Laureate. From 2002 to 2008, he served as the **musical director at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Belgium**. He was the **principal guest conductor for the Arturo Toscanini Philharmonic Orchestra** in Italy from 2012 to 2015, as well as for the **Opéra National de Lyon** in France from 2008 to 2016. Since 2015, he serves as the **musical director for the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra** as well as the **Barcelona Symphony Orchestra**.



He made his opera debut in June 2007 at **La Scala** in Milan. Since then, he has made a number of appearances at the **Metropolitan Opera**, the **Opéra National de Paris**, the **Bayerische Staatsoper**, the **Glyndebourne Festival Opera** and the **Festival d'Aix-en-Provence**.

His many awards include the Akio Watanabe Music Foundation Award, the Minister of Education's Art Encouragement Newcomer Award, the Idemitsu Music Award, the Hideo Saito Memorial Fund Award, the ExxonMobil Music Award, the Suntory Music Award, the Japan Art Academy Prize and Imperial Prize and the Asahi Prize. He has also been awarded the Medal with Purple Ribbon from the Japanese government and honoured as a Person of Cultural Merit.

In May 2017, the Opéra de Lyon, which ONO Kazushi had led for nine years, was awarded the Best Opera Company Award at the International Opera Awards. In June, ONO was made an Officier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government. He was also awarded a special medal by the City of Lyon at the same time.

Since September 2016, he has served as an Artistic Consultant for Opera at the New National Theatre, Tokyo. He is scheduled to become the Artistic Director of Opera in **September 2018**.

Highlights of the 2018/2019 Season

● Newly Commissioned Japanese Opera NISHIMURA's "Asters"

"Introducing Japanese opera from the Japanese opera house to the world". This has been a core objective of The New National Theatre Tokyo since we opened in 1997, and this Season we are presenting a world premiere of a commissioned work "*Asters*" composed by NISHIMURA Akira, libretto by SASAKI Mikiro, based on a story by ISHIKAWA Jun. In the novel "*Asters*", ISHIKAWA Jun depicts the work and troubles of a Heian period artist in a fantasy world that extends into the underworld. The story portrays 'the life of an artist', in which a talented young man born into a family of poets questions the meaning of his own existence. It could be described as an operatic version of a Japanese "*Jean-Christophe*". Newly appointed Artistic Director ONO chose NISHIMURA Akira to put this glamorous work and its dazzling literary style to music. In the pit will be the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, under the musical direction of ONO. The world premiere of this new opera will be directed by OIDA Yoshi who has worked with Peter BROOK for many years as an actor, and who also has a glowing track record as an opera director in Europe. We invite you to come and witness how NISHIMURA and OIDA translates ISHIKAWA's aesthetic and passionate world into opera.

● A New Production of PUCCINI's "Turandot"

as part of the "Summer Festival Opera 2019-20 Japan⇔Tokyo⇔World"

"We are entering the age of opera-going in Tokyo". With 2020 approaching, the idea long incubated by ONO of 'Made in Japan Opera' being the host of the world is finally coming to fruition. This idea will take shape as "Summer Festival Opera 2019-20 Japan⇔Tokyo⇔World", a two year opera project co-produced with Tokyo Bunka Kaikan.

In 2019 July, a large-scale new production of "Turandot" will be presented by ONO taking up the conductor's baton in the pit, with the **Barcelona Symphony Orchestra** where he is the musical director. The production is directed by **Alex OLLÉ**, who heads the internationally acclaimed theatrical group La Fura Dels Baus and directed a number of major operas and events, including the opening ceremony for the Barcelona Olympics. Also worthy of note are the star-studded cast **Irène THEORIN** and **Riccardo ZANELLATO** singing the title role while Japanese sopranos **NAKAMURA Eri** and **SUNAKAWA Ryoko** takes on the role of Liù. OLLÉ's world-premiere production in Tokyo is bound to be the talk of the opera world.

In 2020 June, we are planning a similar co-production of WAGNER's festive masterpiece "*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*" as the second part of "Summer Festival Opera 2019-20 Japan⇔Tokyo⇔World".

NNTT OPERA 2018/2019 SEASON AT A GLANCE

----- 10 Productions in total including 4 New Productions -----

THE MAGIC FLUTE (DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE) / Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART [New Production]

3, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14 October 2018

Conductor: Roland BÖER

Production: William KENTRIDGE

Sarastro: Sava VEMIC

Tamino: Steve DAVISLIM

Queen of the Night: YASUI Yoko

Pamina: HAYASHI Masako

Papageno: André SCHUEN

Papagena: KUSHIMA Kanae

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus

Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

Production of Aix-en-Provence Festival and Rouen Opera, created by Theatre de la Monnaie in 2005



La Flûte enchantée (The Magic Flute) by W. A. Mozart
© Elisabeth Carecchio - Festival d'Aix-en-Provence 2009

CARMEN / Georges BIZET

23, 25, 27, 30 November, 2, 4 December 2018

Conductor: Jean-Luc TINGAUD

Production: UYAMA Hitoshi

Carmen: Ginger COSTA-JACKSON

Don José: Oleg DOLGOV

Escamillo: Timothy RENNER

Micaëla: SUNAKAWA Ryoko

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus

Dancers: The National Ballet of Japan / Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra



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FALSTAFF / Giuseppe VERDI

6, 9, 12, 15 December 2018

Conductor: Carlo RIZZI

Production: Jonathan MILLER

Sir John Falstaff: Roberto DE CANDIA

Ford: Mattia OLIVIERI

Fenton: MURAKAMI Kota

Mrs. Alice Ford: Eva MEI

Nannetta: KOUDA Hiroko

Mrs. Quickly: Enkelejda SHKOZA

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus / Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra



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TANNHÄUSER / Richard WAGNER

27, 30 January, 2, 6, 9 February 2019

Conductor: Asher FISCH

Production: Hans-Peter LEHMANN

Hermann: TSUMAYA Hidekazu

Tannhäuser: Torsten KERL

Wolfram von Eschenbach: Roman TREKEL

Walther von der Voegelweide: SUZUKI Jun

Biterolf: HAGIWARA Jun

Elisabeth: Liene KINČA

Venus: Alexandra PETERSAMER

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus / Ballet: The National Ballet of Japan

Orchestra: Tokyo Symphony Orchestra



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ASTERS (SHION MONOGATARI) / NISHIMURA Akira

[World Premiere of the Newly Commissioned Opera]

17, 20, 23, 24 February 2019

Original Story by ISHIKAWA Jun / Libretto by SASAKI Mikiro

Music by NISHIMURA Akira

Conductor: ONO Kazushi

Production: OIDA Yoshi

Muneyori: TAKADA Tomohiro

Heita: ONUMA Toru

Princess Utsuro: SHIMIZU Kasumi

Chigusa: USUKI Ai

Tonai: MURAKAMI Toshiaki

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus / Orchestra: Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra



NISHIMURA Akira

WERTHER / Jules MASSENET

19, 21, 24, 26 March 2019

Conductor: Paul DANIEL

Production: Nicolas JOEL

Werther: Saimir PIRGU

Charlotte: FUJIMURA Mihoko

Albert: KURODA Hiroshi

Sophie: KOUDA Hiroko

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus

Orchestra: Tokyo Symphony Orchestra



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A FLORENTINE TRAGEDY (EINE FLORENTINISCHE TRAGÖDIE) / Alexander ZEMLINSKY

GIANNI SCHICCHI / Giacomo PUCCINI

[New Productions]

7, 10, 14, 17 April 2019

Conductor: NUMAJIRI Ryusuke

Production: AGUNI Jun

Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

[A FLORENTINE TRAGEDY]

Guido Bardi: Vsevolod GRIVNOV

Simone: Sergei LEIFERKUS

Bianca: SAITO Junko

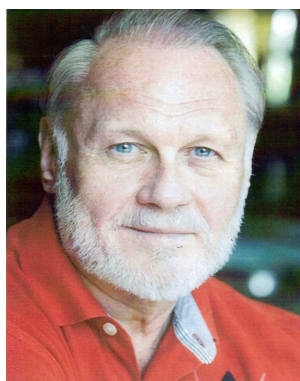
[GIANNI SCHICCHI]

Gianni Schicchi: Carlos ÁLVAREZ

Lauretta: SUNAKAWA Ryoko

Rinuccio: MURAKAMI Toshiaki

Zita: TERATANI Chieko



Sergei LEIFERKUS



Carlos ÁLVAREZ

DON GIOVANNI / Wolfgang Amadeus MOZART

17, 19, 22, 25, 26 May 2019

Conductor: Francesco LANZILLOTTA

Production: Grischa ASAGAROFF

Don Giovanni: Nicola ULIVIERI

Il Commendatore: TSUMAYA Hidekazu

Leporello: Giovanni FURLANETTO

Donna Anna: Marigona QERKEZI

Don Ottavio: Juan Francisco GATELL

Donna Elvira: WAKIZONO Aya

Zerlina: KUSHIMA Kanae

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus

Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra



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MADAMA BUTTERFLY / Giacomo PUCCINI

1, 4, 7, 9 June 2019

Conductor: Donato RENZETTI

Production: KURIYAMA Tamiya

Madama Butterfly: SATO Yasko

Pinkerton: Stephen COSTELLO

Sharpless: SUDO Shingo

Suzuki: YAMASHITA Makiko

Goro: HARE Masahiko

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus

Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra



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Summer Festival Opera 2019-20 Japan⇔Tokyo⇔World

TURANDOT/ Giacomo PUCCINI [New Production] [New Production]

18, 20, 21, 22 July 2019

Conductor: ONO Kazushi

Production: Àlex OLLÉ

[18, 20, 22 July]

Turandot: Irène THEORIN

Calaf: Teodor ILLINCAI

Liù: NAKAMURA Eri

Timur: Riccardo ZANELLATO



Irène THEORIN



Teodor ILLINCAI

[21 July]

Turandot: Jennifer WILSON

Calaf: Simon O'NEILL

Liù: SUNAKAWA Ryoko

Timur: TSUMAYA Hidekazu

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus,

Fujiwara Opera Chorus Group,

BIWAKO HALL Vocal Ensemble

Orchestra:

Barcelona Symphony Orchestra



Jennifer WILSON



Simon O'NEILL

ABOUT THE NEW NATIONAL THEATRE, TOKYO

The New National Theatre, Tokyo (NNTT) is Japan's only national theatre dedicated to the performing arts of **Opera, Ballet, Dance and Drama**. Since we opened in 1997, the NNTT has presented world-class performances not only at our theatre in Tokyo but also at many regional theatres, and has come to occupy a familiar and much-loved place in the nation's cultural life.



Opera House

The NNTT comprises the **Opera House** (1814 seats; known as Opera Palace), **Playhouse** (1038 seats) and **The Pit** (open space theatre with flexible seating arrangements up to 468 seats), each of which uniquely contributes to an annual total of about 300 stage performances to the delight of approx. 200,000 theatregoers, including many visitors from overseas. The theatre is constantly active in staging productions, by itself or in collaboration with other theatres throughout Japan and overseas.

New National Theatre Chorus and **The National Ballet of Japan** are the two resident companies of the NNTT. NNT Chorus inaugurated since the 1998/1999 Season performs in most of the opera productions produced by NNTT. Their activities go beyond operatic performances while they also appear at other concert halls and music festivals and performs in concerts with symphony orchestra. Meanwhile, the National Ballet of Japan (NBj) was founded in 1997 as the first ballet company in Japan resident of a Theatre. NBj's repertoire is broad in scope, embracing classics such as "Swan Lake", "The Sleeping Beauty", "The Nutcracker" and works by choreographers such as George BALANCHINE, Roland PETIT, Kenneth MACMILLAN, Frederic ASHTON and David BINTLEY.

The NNTT is also involved in **educational programmes** for high school students for their first time opera, ballet for children, free lectures, talk sessions and workshops, and other initiatives to provide people the opportunities to encounter the art forms they have not been exposed to before.

Also, training young artists and personnel involved in the performing arts is equally important for the NNTT and we have **Opera Studio, Ballet School** and **Drama School** within the theatre complex, hoping that the graduates will take these arts forms forward into the future.

As Japan's foremost national theatre/opera house, New National Theatre Tokyo strives to create, promote and disseminate performing arts of the highest achievement to the public, in a way that inspires and engage with people on the emotional level. In doing so, we strive to be a full and enriching presence, and to this end we look to your support and partnership.