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 PATANÉ 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 les 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”.

2 / 7
NTT 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: Andrè 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

CARMEN / Georges BIZET
23, 25, 27, 30 November, 2, 4 December 2018
Conductor: Jean-Luc TINGAUD
Production: UYAMA Hitoshí
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

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
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

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

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
A FLORENTINE TRAGEDY (EINE FLORENTINISCHE TRAGÖDIE) / Alexander ZEMLINSKY
GIANNI SCHICCHI / Giacomo PUCCINI
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

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
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

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: Iréne THEORIN
Calaf: Teodor ILLINCAI
Liù: NAKAMURA Eri
Timur: Riccardo ZANELLATO

[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
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.

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.