



Opera Europa autumn conference
Grand Théâtre de Genève
Perspectives
3-5 October 2025



Recommended sessions for

GAF General, Artistic & Finance

D Dramaturgy

F Fundraising

S Sustainability

Sessions in blue are reserved for Opera Europa members only.

Sessions in beige are reserved for FEDORA platform members only.

As part of the SHIFT certification for sustainable cultural networks, our conference will be paperless.

This programme will be updated regularly until the opening of the conference.

Thursday 2 October 2025

European Opera-directing Prize final workshops

Each team will be working with singers to stage a scene from *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. Attendance restricted to companies who have interest in giving opportunities to young creative teams. **D** The Dramaturgy forum is welcome to attend the European Opera-directing Prize finals.

	Foyer Rath / Foyer Lyrique / Amphi Bar	Balanchine Studio
10.00	FEDORA Next Stage Capacity-Building Programme	
11.45	Foyer Rath – Digital transformation, with IMZ.	European Opera-directing Prize final 1
13.15	Amphi Bar – Inclusion, with BPI Learn	
14.15	Foyer Lyrique – Sustainability, with Aktionsnetzwerk Nachhaltigkeit	European Opera-directing Prize final 2
15.45		
16.15		European Opera-directing Prize final 3
17.45		
18.15		European Opera-directing Prize final 4
	Grand Foyer	
18.30	D Apéropera <i>Pelléas et Mélisande</i> Dramaturgy presentation about Grand Théâtre de Genève's next production	

Friday 3 October 2025

	Foyer Rath / Foyer Lyrique / Amphi Bar	Balanchine Studio	Chorus Room
10.00	9.00 FEDORA Next Stage Capacity-Building Programme (continued)		D The role of the Dramaturg in setting the programming agenda Led by Thomas Böckstiegel (Heidelberg)
11.00			Coffee break
11.30		Opera Europa Board meeting	D Open discussion tables
13.00	Registrations open in the Hall d'entrée		
	Main auditorium	Balanchine Studio	Chorus Room
14.00	Conference welcome by Aviel Cahn and Karen Stone		
14.10	Keynote address by Mariame Clément, stage director		
14.30	From freedom of artistic expression to self-censorship Tatjana Ažman (Ljubljana), Jan Burian (Prague), Frieda Lange (Mortier Next Generation), Marc Scorca (OPERA America), moderated by Nicholas Payne		
15.45	Coffee break in Atrium and Hall		
16.15	Discussion with the European Opera-directing Prize finalist teams Moderated by Sam Brown (former EOP winner/stage director/ Enschede)		F The value of the personal relationship with donors Anna Hårleman De Geer (Drottningholms), Jean-Pierre Primiani (Montreal) and Marisa Vazquez-Shelly (Madrid), moderated by Tim Beernaert (Brussels)
17.15	La Cité Bleue	GAF Co-production marketplace Led by Fergus Sheil and Gemma Coll Torra <i>Contact Gemma if you would like to pitch a production for a future season.</i>	Meeting of small and independent opera companies Led by Guy Coolen (Rotterdam) and Polly Graham (Longborough)
17.30	Guided tour of <i>La Cité Bleue</i> - first group		
18.15			
18.30	Guided tour of <i>La Cité Bleue</i> – second group		
19.00		Bar Bleu	Atrium
19.30		European Opera-directing Prize jury and finalists meeting	Welcome to first time attendees of Opera Europa member companies Meet and greet with the Opera Europa Board and team
	Restaurant Le Lyrique		
20.00	Conference dinner offered by Grand Theatre de Genève at restaurant Le Lyrique European Opera-directing Prize: announcement of the prizes With Armin Kretschmar (Camerata Nuova) and Barbara Minghetti (Jury President)		

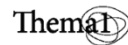
Saturday 4 October

	Foyers	Balanchine Studio	Chorus Room
7.30	Running club led by Jan Henric Bogen - <i>Meet on the steps of the Grand Théâtre</i>		
9.30	Registrations open		
10.00	GAFD Style and production values for programming collaborations across Europe With Renata Borowska (Poznan), David Pountney, Cormac Simms (London RBO), Laima Vilimiene (Vilnius), moderated by Aviel Cahn (Geneva)	F Best practices for online fundraising and crowdfunding Etienne Eichenberger (Swiss Philanthropy Foundation), Camille Claverie-Li (Paris Opéra Comique), Rosa Haker (Amsterdam), moderated by Edilia Gänz (FEDORA)	
11.15	Coffee break in Atrium and Hall		
11.45	GAFS Funding renovations and dealing with closed theatres Aude Accary-Bonnery (Paris ONP), Fredrik Lindgren (Stockholm), Hein Mulders (Köln), Michaela Orizu (KOBerlin), Georg Vierthaler (Stiftung Oper Berlin), moderated by Alexandra Stampler-Brown (Düsseldorf)	D Second stages: programming around the season Barbara Minghetti (Parma OFF), Clara Pons (La Plage/Geneva), moderated by Niels Nuijten (OFF Amsterdam)	
13.00	Lunch in Atrium and Hall		
14.15	Updates and announcements with the Opera Europa team		
14.30	GAFS The Financial implications of a Sustainability policy Agathe Chamboredon (Lyon/17h25), Violaine Charpy (Paris ONP), Jaap van Hellenberg Hubar (Amsterdam), Lauri Pokkinen (Helsinki), moderated by Tobias Wolff (Leipzig)	GAF Co-production speed dating Led by Fergus Sheil (Dublin) and Gemma Coll Torra <i>One representative per company</i>	DS Towards a digitalisation of content With Hedda Høgåsen-Hallesby (Oslo), Marie Mergeay (Brussels) and Valentí Oviedo (Barcelona), moderated by Laura Roling (Amsterdam)
15.45	Coffee break in Atrium and Hall		La Cité Bleue
16.15		Opera Europa’s Advocacy toolkit and World Opera Day campaign Presented by Hannah Griffiths and Celia Grau	Une journée particulière 16.00 Presentation with Leonardo García-Alarcón on music by Rota, Chaplin and Morricone 17.30 Gianfranco Lelj photo exhibition 20.00 Projection of the film <i>Una giornata particolare</i> with Sophia Loren and Marcello Mastroianni
17.00	End of sessions		
18.00	Wagner’s <i>Tannhäuser</i> Conducted by Mark Elder and directed by Michael Thalheimer With Franz-Josef Selig, Daniel Johansson, Stéphane Degout, Jennifer Davis, Victoria Karkacheva (end at 23.00)		

Sunday 5 October 2025

	Main auditorium	Grand Foyer	Chorus Room	Balanchine Studio
8.30	Quick dip in Lac Léman led by Arnaud Fétique - <i>Meet at Baby Plage, quai Gustave Ador</i>			
9.30	Registration desk opens			
10.00	What does innovation look like in Europe? With Edilia Gänz (FEDORA)		CEO forum Led by Hannah Griffiths <i>Please note that this session is a closed space for CEOs of member companies only (the most senior leader in each organisation who reports directly to the board).</i>	D Next Steps of the Dramaturgy forum Led by Gemma Coll Torra
10.15	The role of national and international organisations in cultural policy Ruth Jakobi (EMC), Frédéric Pérouchine (ROFrance), Claudia Schmitz (Deutscher Bühnenverein), Maya Weisinger (Culture Action Europe), moderated by Audrey Jungers	FS How to apply for FEDORA Prizes and Next Stage Grants Led by Diandra de Lima (FEDORA)		D Opera Road Trip: Discovering Ukrainian repertoire Meet Ukrainian producers, moderated by Sebastian Schwarz
11.00	Bühnenverein), Maya Weisinger (Culture Action Europe), moderated by Audrey Jungers	F Next Steps of the Fundraising forum Led by Aline Chif		S Managing Sustainability: unifying efforts through Culture for the Planet With Leticia Labaronne (ZHAW) and Greta Ortalli (UNIL), in conversation with Celia Grau
11.30	Coffee break in Atrium and Hall			
12.00	Closing remarks by conference rapporteur Lorenzo Ponte, stage director and former European Opera-directing Prize winner			
12.15	Conference conclusions and other announcements With Martin Glaser, President, Audrey Jungers and Karen Stone			
12.30	End of conference			
13.35	Regular trains to Lausanne leaving between 13.00 and 15.35 (duration 39min to 1h07) - Check out www.sbb.ch to organise your trip			
	Opéra de Lausanne			
17.00	Massenet's <i>Don Quichotte</i> Conducted by Laurent Campellone and directed by Bruno Ravella With Stéphanie d'Oustrac, Nicolas Courjal, Marc Barrard, Andrea Cueva Molnar, Herlinde Van de Straete, Maxence Billiemaz, Jean Miannay			

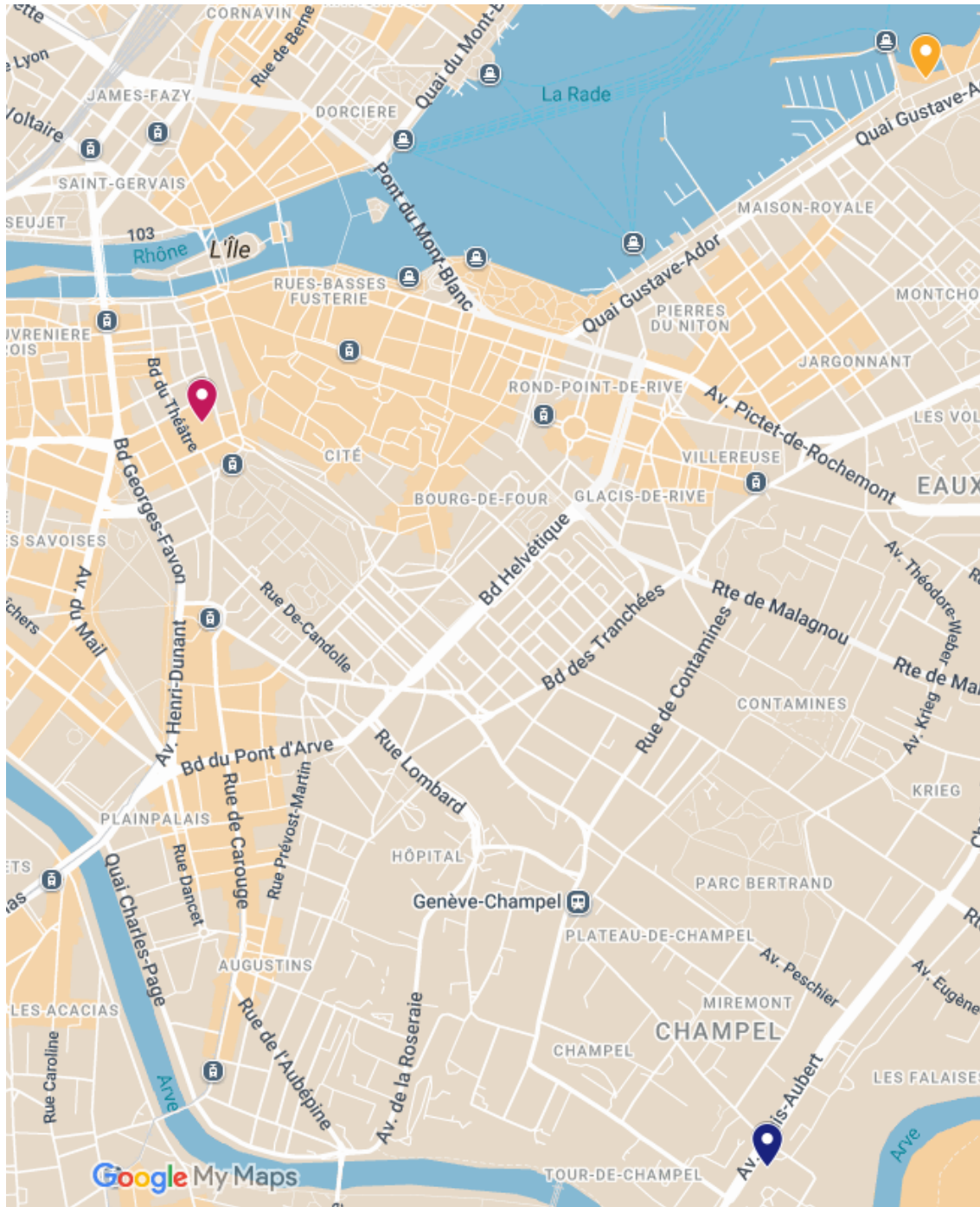
Next Stage Initiative, a collaboration between



Sustainability Partners

Inclusion Partner

Digital transformation
Partner



Red: Grand Théâtre de Genève

Blue: La Cité Bleue

From Grand Théâtre de Genève to La Cité Bleue: 12min ride on tram 3

or

35min walk

Yellow: dip in the Lac Léman

From Grand Théâtre de Genève to Baby Plage:

12min ride on bus 2 and 5min walk

or

29min walk