

PREVIEWS, NEWS AND EVENTS IN THE OPERA WORLD

NEWS & NOTES**ENO appoints new artistic director**

Annilese Miskimmon has been appointed artistic director of English National Opera.

Miskimmon, currently director of opera at the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet in Oslo, will take over from Daniel Kramer as the company's artistic leader next year and will be the only woman to be at the artistic helm of a major British opera company.

Originally from Northern Ireland, Miskimmon gained prominence in the opera profession when she ran the Opera Touring Theatre,

bringing touring productions to audiences on both sides of the Irish border. Before her post in Oslo, she was general director of Danish National Opera. Her work with major national companies in Scandinavia will have undoubtedly hardened her to the political ins and outs of the opera world.

At ENO, she will work alongside chief executive Stuart Murphy and music director Martyn Brabbins. She will remain as Oslo's director of opera until the end of the 2019/20 season, joining ENO in September 2020. However,

she will have input in planning ENO's future seasons from January, providing much needed artistic continuity and vision in a company that has had a fractured history.

ENO chairman Harry Brünjes said: 'It has been a diligent, long and thorough process to appoint a new artistic director. We were really impressed by Annilese who brings with her significant experience of working as a director and developing an artistic programme. Her creative ideas and knowledge of the opera and arts landscape will be invaluable.'



Annilese Miskimmon takes the helm of English National Opera

Kramer announced earlier this year that he would be stepping down after three years in post in order to focus on his freelance opera and theatre directing career. He officially left in July, but is remaining an artistic associate until the end of 2019 to oversee ENO's Orpheus series.

Historic Venetian opera house to be reconstructed

A bid to reconstruct Venice's historic Teatro San Cassiano, the world's first public opera house, was launched in London on 1 October.

The Teatro San Cassiano opened in 1637, welcoming a ticket-buying public rather than remaining the preserve of private patronage. Francesco Manelli's *L'Andromeda*, with a libretto by Benedetto Ferrari, was the first opera to be staged there. The opera house was demolished in 1812 under Napoleon's instruction. Now a project is underway to reconstruct the original 1637 Teatro as faithfully as possible to create a fully functioning, dedicated Baroque opera house, complete with its own stage machinery, moving sets

and special effects.

The project intends to establish the Teatro San Cassiano as a leading international centre for the research and staging of Baroque opera. School outreach and music therapy services constitute important elements of the longer-term strategy. The planning team is working through numerous archival records,

drawings, and images of other contemporary theatres to deliver a historically viable plan for the reconstruction of the theatre to its original plan – with guidance from an advisory council comprising musicologists and specialists in Venetian architecture. The project has partnered with Shakespeare's Globe in London, working with the team responsible for the

reconstruction of the Globe theatre and the building of the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. The theatre will be established as a charitable foundation and soprano Ann Hallenberg has been named as global ambassador for the project.

Paul Atkin, CEO of Teatro San Cassiano, commented: 'Our aim is to restore the 1637 theatre as accurately as academic research will allow. The theatre will then become a place of exploration, study and performance of historically informed Baroque opera, both in the orchestra pit and on the stage. We want to work together with the Venetian authorities and the Venetian public, making Venice once again the world centre for Baroque opera.'

