

# THE NEW NATIONAL THEATRE TOKYO ANNOUNCES

## 2024/2025 SEASON -OPERA-



The New National Theatre Tokyo (NNTT)'s Artistic Director of Opera **Ono Kazushi** today announces its 2024/2025 season which opens on 3 October. The new season sees **three new productions** — **two NNTT premieres** and **one world premiere** — and **six revivals** from our beloved repertoire with a total of 41 performances.

Full Programmes: <https://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english/2024-25season-opera.html>

- **New season kicks off with the NNTT premiere of Bellini's *La Sonnambula***

The NNTT kicks off its 2024/2025 season with the long-awaited NNTT premiere of Bellini's enchanting opera, *La Sonnambula*. Created as an international co-production with **Teatro Real of Madrid**, **Gran Teatre del Liceu**, and **Teatro Massimo di Palermo**, the initial staging of **Bárbara Lluch's** production took place in Madrid in December 2022, notably for her distinctively sensitive way of highlighting women's feelings in a closed-off mountain village.

Amina is played by **Rosa Feola**, whose beautiful voice has been heard at New York's Metropolitan Opera and other opera houses around the world; Elvino is played by **Antonino Siragusa**, who has impressed audiences with his extraordinary voice and acting ability. Count Rodolfo is played by our nation's star singer, **Tsumaya Hidekazu**. It will be conducted by **Maurizio Benini**, a renowned master of Italian opera, who also conducted the first performance of this production in Madrid.

- **Japan stage premiere of Rossini's *Guillaume Tell* in the original French**

The second new production of the season is Rossini's final opera and greatest masterpiece, the grand opera *Guillaume Tell* (*William Tell*). The legendary director/designer **Yannis Kokkos** returns to the NNTT to create a new production, after directing *Le Rossignol / Iolanta* remotely from France for the NNTT in 2021, successfully capturing the lyricism of the works. Artistic Director **Ono Kazushi** conducts the production, with the title role sung by the young, yet noble baritone **Gezim Myshketa** (who has already made his reputation in this role) and Arnold by **René Barbera**, who wowed audiences as Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola* at the NNTT in 2021 with the brilliance of his high notes and the beauty of the soft notes. Star soprano **Olga Peretyatko** will make her long-awaited return to the NNTT as Mathilde. This will be the first time that *Guillaume Tell* is staged in the original language in Japan.

## ● **Newly Commissioned Japanese Opera – World Premiere of Hosokawa Toshio's *Natasha***

This new opera *Natasha* by **Hosokawa Toshio** is staged in August 2025 as the third in Artistic Director Ono's series of commissioned works from Japanese composers. Reconsidering the relationship between humans and nature, Hosokawa Toshio's music is a kind of prayer or requiem. Especially after the 2011 Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, his works address repeated destruction in human history, both man-made and natural. Human arrogance forgets too easily the frailty of human existence. Globally acclaimed author **Tawada Yoko**, who writes novels in both Japanese and German that examine the world from a German base and highlight themes of national borders and languages, is working on the libretto for the new work. The story focuses on an encounter between Natasha, a wandering immigrant driven out of her hometown, and a young man named Arato, as well as a Mephistopheles-like figure who shows and leads the pair through various scenes of human hell. **Multilingual with Japanese, German and Ukrainian languages and others**, the opera compares and contrasts the origins of modern civilization and humanity. The world premiere will be conducted by **Ono Kazushi**, and the direction and set design of this innovative creation are entrusted to **Christian R ath**. The international cast including **Ilse Eerens**, **Yamashita Hiroka** and **Christian Miedl** join the NNTT for the new work.

## ● **Much- Loved NNTT's Repertoire with International Artists**

Our repertoire productions showcase acclaimed singers and conductors.

In December 2024, William Kentridge's celebrated production of *Die Zauberfl te* returns. Under the baton of the brilliant Czech conductor **Tom s Netopil**, we welcome the world-renowned Tamino, **Pavol Breslik**, and the exceptional bass, **Matheus Frana** as Sarastro as well as talented Japanese singers such as **Yasui Yoko** as K nigin der Nacht.

At the beginning of 2025, the great Russian singer **Evgeny Nikitin** will be invited back to sing the title role in Wagner's *Der fliegende Holl nder* in the production by **Matthias von Stegmann**. He will be joined by world-class Wagner singers like **Elisabet Strid**, **Jonathan Stoughton** and **Matsui Hiroshi**. Conductor **Marc Albrecht**, a fine Wagnerian makes his NNTT debut.

The double bill of Zemlinsky's *Eine florentinische Trag die* and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* directed by **Aguni Jun** is set to make a comeback on stage under the baton of **Numajiri Ryusuke**. *Eine florentinische Trag die* brings together a phenomenal cast including **Thomas Johannes Mayer**, a wildly popular star baritone, **David Pomeroy**, a tenor renowned for his powerful and brilliant voice, and **Nancy Weissbach**, a soprano notable for a brilliant, strong voice and powerful expression. Talented Italian baritone **Pietro Spagnoli** shines in the title role of *Gianni Schicchi*.

*Carmen*, first staged in 2021, will be recreated by director **Alex Oll ** himself now without the Covid-19 prevention staging. **Samantha Hankey**, a rising star, will sing Carmen, with **Atalla Ayan** as Don Jos , regarded as the star of the 21st century. **Lukasz Golinski**, known for Escamillo and King Roger, will portray Escamillo. **Gaetano d'Espinosa** will return to the podium.

One of the NNTT's most beloved productions, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, production by Japanese renowned director **Kuriyama Tamiya**, is set to grace the stage in May 2025. Showcasing her dramatic voice and rich emotional expression, the role of Madama Butterfly is performed by Japanese soprano **Kobayashi Atsuko**. The cast includes American rising star, tenor **José Simerilla Romero** as Pinkerton and experienced Italian **Bruno Taddia** as Sharpless.

In May-June 2025, **Josef E. Köpplinger**'s colourful production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* returns under the baton of Corrado Rovaris. Japanese mezzosoprano **Wakizono Aya**, a global performer in the role, appears as the heroine Rosina. Bel canto tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** plays the role of Il Conte d'Almaviva, while star baritone **Roberto de Candia** is Figaro, and Rossini specialist **Giulio Mastrototaro** takes on the role of Bartolo.

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## NNTT OPERA 2024/2025 SEASON AT A GLANCE

### La Sonnambula / Vincenzo Bellini **[New Production]**

3, 6, 9, 12, 14 October 2024

Co-production with Teatro Real of Madrid, Gran Teatre del Liceu, Teatro Massimo di Palermo

Web: <https://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english/productions/opera/la-sonnambula.html>

Conductor: **Maurizio BENINI**

Production: **Bárbara LLUCH**

**<Cast>**

Il conte Rodolfo: **TSUMAYA Hidekazu**

Teresa: **TANIGUCHI Mutsumi**

Amina: **Rosa FEOLA**

Elvino: **Antonino SIRAGUSA**

Lisa: **ITO Hare**

Alessio: **KONDO Kei**

and others



Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus  
Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

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## Guillaume Tell / Gioachino Rossini [New Production]

20, 23, 26, 28, 30 November 2024

Web: <https://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english/productions/opera/guillaume-tell.html>

Conductor: **ONO Kazushi**

Production, Set and Costume Design: **Yannis KOKKOS**

### <Cast>

Guillaume Tell: **Gezim MYSHKETA**

Arnold Melchtal: **René BARBERA**

Jemmy: **YASUI Yoko**

Gesler: **TSUMAYA Hidekazu**

Mathilde: **Olga PERETYATKO**

Hedwige: **SAITO Junko**

and others

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus

Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

## Die Zauberflöte / Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart [Revival]

10, 12, 14, 15 December 2024

Web: <https://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english/productions/opera/die-zauberflote.html>

Conductor: **Tomáš NETOPIL**

Production: **William KENTRIDGE**

### <Cast>

Sarastro: **Matheus FRANÇA**

Tamino: **Pavol BRESLIK**

Königin der Nacht: **YASUI Yoko**

Pamina: **KUSHIMA Kanae**

Papagena: **TANETANI Noriko**

Papageno: **KOMADA Toshiaki**

and others



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Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus

Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

## Der fliegende Holländer / Richard Wagner [Revival]

19, 22, 25, 29 January, 1 February 2025

Web: <https://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english/productions/opera/derfliegendehollander.html>

Conductor: **Marc ALBRECHT**

Production: **Matthias von STEGMANN**

### <Cast>

Daland: **MATSUI Hiroshi**

Senta: **Elisabet STRID**

Erik: **Jonathan STOUGHTON**

Mary: **KANEKO Mika**

Holländer: **Evgeny NIKITIN**

and others



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Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus

Orchestra: Tokyo Symphony Orchestra

## Eine florentinische Tragödie / Alexander Zemlinsky [Revival]

### Gianni Schicchi / Giacomo Puccini [Revival]

2, 4, 6, 8 February 2025

Web: <https://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english/productions/opera/giannischicchi.html>

Conductor: **NUMAJIRI Ryusuke**

Production: **AGUNI Jun**

### <Cast>

**Eine florentinische Tragödie**

Guido Bardi: **David POMEROY**

Simone: **Thomas Johannes MAYER**

Bianca: **Nancy WEISSBACH**

### **Gianni Schicchi**

Gianni Schicchi: **Pietro SPAGNOLI**

Lauretta: **MIYAKE Rie**

Zita: **YODA Asako**

Rinuccio: **MURAKAMI Kota**

and others



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Orchestra: Tokyo Symphony Orchestra



## Carmen / Georges Bizet [Revival]

26 February, 1, 4, 6, 8 March 2025

Web: <https://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english/productions/opera/carmen.html>

Conductor: **Gaetano D'ESPINOSA**

Production: **Àlex OLLÉ**

### <Cast>

Carmen: **Samantha HANKEY**

Don José: **Atalla AYAN**

Escamillo: **Lukasz GOLINSKI**

Micaëla: **ITO Hare**

and others

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus

Orchestra: Tokyo Symphony Orchestra



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## Madama Butterfly / Giacomo Puccini [Revival]

14, 17, 21, 24 May 2025

Web: <https://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english/productions/opera/madamabutterfly.html>

Conductor: **Enrique MAZZOLA**

Production: **KURIYAMA Tamiya**

### <Cast>

Madama Butterfly: **KOBAYASHI Atsuko**

Pinkerton: **José Simerilla ROMERO**

Sharpless: **Bruno TADDIA**

Suzuki: **YAMASHITA Makiko**

and others

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus

Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra



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## Il Barbiere di Siviglia / Gioachino Rossini [Revival]

25, 28, 30 May, 1, 3 June 2025

Web: <https://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english/productions/opera/ilbarbieredisiviglia.html>

Conductor: **Corrado ROVARIS**

Production: **Josef E. KÖPPLINGER**

### <Cast>

Il Conte d'Almaviva: **Lawrence BROWNLEE**

Rosina: **WAKIZONO Aya**

Bartolo: **Giulio MASTROTOTARO**

Figaro: **Roberto DE CANDIA**

Don Basilio: **TSUMAYA Hidekazu**

Berta: **KANOH Etsuko**



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Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus

Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

## Natasha / Hosokawa Toshio [New Production / Commissioned Work, World Premiere]

11, 13, 15, 17 August 2025

Web: <https://www.nntt.jac.go.jp/english/productions/opera/natasha.html>

Libretto by **TAWADA Yoko**

Composed by **HOSOKAWA Toshio**

Conductor: **ONO Kazushi**

Production: **Christian RÄTH**

### <Cast>

Natasha: **Ilse EERENS**

Arato: **YAMASHITA Hiroka**

Mephistos Enkel: **Christian MIEDL**

and others

Chorus: New National Theatre Chorus

Orchestra: Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

## ONO Kazushi, Artistic Director of Opera

Ono Kazushi is Artistic Director of Opera of the New National Theatre Tokyo since September 2018. At the New National Theatre Tokyo, he has conducted *Die Zauberflöte* (1998), *Tristan und Isolde* (2010, 2011), *Asters* (2019), *Turandot* (2019), *A Dream of Armageddon* (2020), *Die Walküre* (2021), *Carmen* (2021), *Super Angels* (2021), *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (2021), *Pelléas et Mélisande* (2022), *Boris Godunov* (2022), *La Bohème* (2023) and *Simon Boccanegra* (2023).



Ono trained in Europe under Wolfgang Sawallisch in Munich and came to public attention winning first prize in the 1987 Toscanini Competition. Since his first appointment at Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra in 1992 he has held continuous positions, including at Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, Theatre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, Opéra National de Lyon, the Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya, and currently, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, New National Theatre Tokyo and Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra.

He has lasting friendships with orchestras around the world and regularly guest conducts groups such as London Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Orchestre de la Suisse Romande.

His passion and curiosity for repertoire takes him in different directions – to the standard classics but also to new music. Recent commissions at New National Theatre Tokyo include *Asters* by Nishimura Akira and Fujikura Dai's *A Dream of Armageddon*.

In 2017 he was awarded 'Officier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres' by French cultural minister Françoise Nyssen, adding to the prestigious Asahi Prize in January 2015, for his contribution to the development and progress of Japanese society.



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## 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 Palace** (1806 seats), **Playhouse** (1030 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 250 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.