



Press Release 2021–10–14

## Opera på Skäret is putting on *Un Ballo in Maschera* in 2022

Opera på Skäret is starting up again after the pandemic with Verdi's opera *Un Ballo in Maschera* (A Masked Ball) which will be played as the original version, with the storyline taking place in the Swedish Court.

– After two cancelled seasons, we would like to celebrate our return with the best the opera art has to offer – a masterpiece by Verdi. And of course, we are going to do it the way Verdi intended, with the murder of King Gustav III as the main event in the drama, says Alexander Niclasson, Artistic Director.

The last few decades, *Un Ballo in Maschera* has been played in many different versions in Sweden, often sung in Swedish. Opera på Skäret's version will, according to the artistic direction of the opera house, be sung in the original language. This also creates an opportunity to showcase distinguished soloists from all over the world.

– Like all previous years, we look forward to introducing some amazing international singers to the Swedish audience. It is also possible that some of the public's favorites from previous years will return as well, says Alexander Niclasson.

The Libretto by Antonio Somma, which Verdi based his opera on, revolves around the murder of King Gustav III. But after resistance from the Italian censorship – which didn't permit a killing of a king in the script – it was rewritten with the storyline taking place in Boston in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The Opera was premiered in Rome in 1859 and had its Swedish premier at The Royal Swedish Opera in 1927. In a new Swedish translation from 1958, the location of the storyline was again changed back to the Swedish Royal Castle, however the real murderer Anckarström was changed to a fictitious character called Count Holberg.

Opera på Skäret's rendition of the opera will be with a libretto which is based on Somma's original. It will be in Italian, and the text will be translated on screen to Swedish. The Swedish Chamber Orchestra will take care of the music, led by the Italian conductor Lorenzo Coladonato.

There will be 12 shows of *Un Ballo in Maschera* between 30<sup>th</sup> July and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The tickets will be on sale from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

For two summers in a row, Opera på Skäret has been forced to cancel the scheduled performances of Puccini's *Turandot*. This opera will now be played at a later date, in the coming seasons. Opera på Skäret's latest show was *The Magic Flute* in 2019, which was seen by 10 600 people, and was critically acclaimed by both audiences and critics.

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