



Anne Barslev to be the New Artistic Director at Danish National Opera

As of May 2024, the role of artistic director at Danish National Opera will be held by 48-year-old Opera Director Anne Barslev. Anne Barslev will replace Philipp Kochheim, who plans on stepping down next year after seven years in the role.

Today, Danish National Opera can announce that Anne Barslev will assume the role of artistic director at Denmark's largest touring opera company as of 1st May 2024. From now on, top-level management will consist of Artistic Director Anne Barslev, who is responsible for artistic management, and Managing Director Claus Pettersson, who has been in charge of administrative management as of May 2023.

Regarding her appointment as new artistic director, Anne Barslev commented:

'Danish National Opera plays a unique role on the Danish cultural stage, and I am both extremely proud and honoured to have been entrusted with the position of artistic director. Together with Managing Director Claus Pettersson, I look forward to leading Danish National Opera and, with the help and support of a highly committed staff, helping to develop the future of touring opera in Denmark. In collaboration with the regional orchestras, we will strive to create relevant and thought-provoking operas for the country's theatre associations, simultaneously establishing a solid foundation and awareness in its hometown of Aarhus.'

Anne Barslev is a trained opera director from the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten in Amsterdam. She has worked as a freelance opera director in Scandinavia and has directed everything ranging from the great, well-known

classics to newly composed, experimental operas for both adults and children. Most recently, Anne Barslev directed Peter Bruun's opera adventure *STRØM* at Den Ny Opera in Esbjerg.

Moreover, she has staged opera performances on larger outdoor stages, as well as in open city spaces.

Anne Barslev is currently combining her work at the Opera Academy with directing Massenet's *Cinderella*, which includes the involvement of students from the Royal Danish Academy of Music.

Anne Barslev has previously staged performances at the Royal Theatre, the Malmö Opera, and the Copenhagen Opera Festival. Danish National Opera has also previously benefited from her productions, including, for example, Niels Marthinsen's all-night opera *Snow White's Mirror* (2011) at the Concert Hall in Aarhus with the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra and Peter Bruun's *Narcissus and Echo* (2010).

Regarding her vision for Danish National Opera, Anne Barslev remarked:

'My clear vision for Danish National Opera is to continue having high artistic quality, as well as being a Scandinavian workplace that gathers the very best forces together in order to showcase what our world has to offer. We must accommodate both the well-established classical operas with the regional orchestras and the smaller and more flexible operas that look to new formats. It is vital we embrace both new graduates and the country's biggest stars with international careers. Most importantly, we have to invite the audience to get up close and personal, and to create a sense of familiarity and closeness through modern-day neighbourliness.'

Chair of the Board, Leif Lønsmann, on the appointment: 'To the delight of both the audience of today and the future.'

Leif Lønsmann, Chair of the Board of Danish National Opera, commented the following regarding the appointment of Anne Barslev: *'Anne Barslev is an extremely experienced and passionate director of opera, as well as a well-known name within Danish opera. With the appointment of Anne Barslev as artistic director as of May 2024, Danish National Opera will be in a position to strengthen its role in Danish cultural life - to the delight of both the audience of today and the future, and to both the artists and talents of today and the future. In doing so, Danish National Opera's position as Denmark's touring opera company will be reaffirmed.'*

Leif Lønsmann also passed on his thanks to current General Manager & Artistic Director Philipp Kochheim, for his achievements at Danish National Opera.

'With deft and artistic fervour, Philipp Kochheim has led the Danish National Opera throughout May 2017 - May 2024. Philipp Kochheim has managed to combine the safe and familiar with the new and experimental. The keys to a highly viable and sustainable institution can safely be passed on to Anne Barslev when she takes over from Philipp Kochheim on 1st May 2024.'

Anne Barslev has been appointed on a four-year contract, with the possibility of extension. She and her family currently reside in Copenhagen but plan to move to the Aarhus area.

Best regards,

Danish National Opera

Anne Visby Larsen
Marketing and Communications Manager

For interviews with Anne Barslev: Contact Anne Visby Larsen avl@jyske-opera.dk
Telephone: +45 29 80 42 73

Chair the Board for Danish National Opera
Leif Lønsmann - telephone: +45 20 12 03 12

Download press photo of Anne Barslev: <https://jyske-opera.dk/presserum/>

About Danish National Opera

Danish National Opera is Denmark's national touring opera company. Funded by the Danish Ministry of Culture and Aarhus Municipality, Danish National Opera is based in Aarhus and tours throughout all of Denmark. Danish National Opera is Denmark's largest national touring opera company, employs 60 artistic staff, and has an extensive collaboration with regional orchestras, theatre associations, and venues throughout the country.

Autumn 2023 at Danish National Opera

On 13th October in Odense, Danish National Opera has its premiere of the Danish opera fairytale *The Raven*, written by H.C. Andersen and J.P.E. Hartmann, as the sixth opera in The Danish Series. Here you will have the chance to enjoy a performance encompassing song, dance, and theatre, and which has been put together by a huge team of both Danish and international singers from around the country, together with the Chorus of The Danish National Opera and the regional orchestras. *The Raven* in directed by Philipp Kochheim and has its premiere in the birth city of Hans Christian Andersen, Odense on October 13. Performances of *The Raven* will be given between 13th October - 2nd December 2023. *The Raven* in directed by Philipp Kochheim and has its premiere in the birth city of Hans Christian Andersen, Odense on October 13.