



International Opera Awards Winners Announced

On the 7 April 2014 at Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, the International Opera Awards ceremony took place. It was an evening to celebrate all the opera world has to offer whilst also raising funds for the Opera Awards Foundation which aims to help those starting off in the profession. Opera stars and supporters gathered in the The Great Room to hear the winners announced in the ceremony hosted by Wynne Evans.

Performances were given by Phoebe Haines, an Opera Awards Foundation Bursary Winner, Duncan Rock, Young Singer of the Year nominee 2013 and 2014, Susana Gasper and winner of the Male Singer Award, Stuart Skelton. Phoebe Haines was accompanied by Marek Ruszczynski, a current National Opera Studio student also benefitting from an Opera Awards Foundation Bursary. The other performers were all accompanied by Gary Matthewman on a piano kindly provided by Markson Pianos. The International Opera Awards is sponsored by Sanlam Private Investments, in association with Opera Magazine, supported by Classic FM, Incorporated Society of Musicians and The Nexus Group.

<http://www.operaawards.org>

#OperaAwards

To access footage from the 2014 Awards please use the below information:

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Please credit Jim Winslet

The Winners

Accessibility

Teatro Sociale di Como

Anniversary Production (Britten)

Peter Grimes on the beach (Aldeburgh Festival)

Anniversary Production (Verdi)

Verdi trilogy – La battaglia di Legnano, I due Foscari, I Lombardi (Hamburg Staatsoper)

Anniversary Production

Parsifal (Vlaamse Opera)

CD (Complete Opera)

Otello (Chicago Symphony Orchestra Resound)

CD (Operatic Recital)

Ann Hallenberg – Hidden Handel (Naïve)

Chorus

Bayreuth Festival

Conductor

Kirill Petrenko

Designer

Paul Brown

Director

Barrie Kosky

DVD

David et Jonathas (Bel Air Classiques)

Female Singer

Diana Damrau

Festival

Aix-en-Provence

Lifetime Achievement

Gerard Mortier

Male Singer

Stuart Skelton

New Production

Norma (Salzburg Festival)

Opera Company

Oper Zurich

Philanthropist/Sponsor

Edgar Foster Daniels

Readers' Award

Joseph Calleja

Rediscovered Work

Cristina, regina di Svezia (Wexford Festival)

World Premiere

The Merchant of Venice (Bregenz Festival)

Young Singer

Jamie Barton

The Lifetime Achievement Award went to Gerard Mortier, the Belgian opera director and administrator who dedicated his life to bringing originality to opera and worked at three of the world's major operatic institutions, La Monnaie, the Salzburg Festival and Opéra National de Paris.

Diana Damrau and Stuart Skelton won Female and Male Singer of the Year respectively with Joseph Calleja winning the Readers' Award. The Young Singer of the Year was won by American mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton. Kirill Petrenko, Paul Brown and Barrie Kosky won the Awards for Conductor, Designer and Director of the Year respectively and the Opera Company of the Year was awarded to Oper Zurich.

The world's music festivals were well represented in the winners list. Aix-en-Provence won Festival Opera of the Year with 2014 New Production of the Year Winner being won by the Salzburg Festival with their production of *Norma*. Wexford Festival's *Cristina, regina di Svezia* won Rediscovered Work of the Year and Bregenz Festival's *The Merchant of Venice* won World Premiere of the Year. Bayreuth Festival Chorus were the winners of the Chorus of the Year Award and Aldeburgh Festival took home the Britten Anniversary Production of the Year for their breathtaking staging of *Peter Grimes* on the beach.

Other Anniversary Production Awards included the Wagner Anniversary Production of the Year which went to Vlaamse Opera for their staging of *Parsifal* and the Verdi Anniversary Award went to Hamburg Staatsoper for their production of the Verdi trilogy which included *La Battaglia di Legnano*, *I due Foscari* and *I Lombardi*. These awards were a fitting way to recognise the tributes to three opera composers who have contributed so much to the art form.

The recording of a Complete Opera was won by record label Chicago Symphony Orchestra Resound's version of *Otello*, conducted by Riccardo Muti. Ann Hallenberg's disc *Hidden Handel* on Naïve was the winner of the Operatic Recital CD of the Year. The winner of the DVD of the Year went to a recording of Charpentier's *David et Jonathas* on the Bel Air Classiques label.

Philanthropist/Sponsor of the Year was awarded to Edgar Foster Daniels with the Italian Teatro Sociale di Como winning the Accessibility Award.

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