

Clara Svärd Director, Choreographer

Clara Svärd will this season stage Händel's *Julius Caesar* for the Royal Swedish Opera/The Young Opera with premiere in April. Her most recent work in opera includes *Pride and Prejudice* by Daniel Nelson/Sofia Fredén for Norrlandsoperan in 2024, and in 2023 she staged *Mytomania* by Paula af Malmborg Ward for the Göteborg Opera and was the choreographer for *Andefabriken/The Ghost Factory* for Vadstena Academy Summer Opera Festival, directed by Nils Spangenberg.

Clara Svärd has been active in the field of opera since the early 2000s. After dance studies at Balettakademien's Professional School, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Choreography from Roehampton University in London and pursued physical theater training for opera singers with Willy Verkuil at the Dutch opera academy De Nieuwe Opera Academie. During her studies, she interned with director and opera/theater choreographer Stuart Hopps as well as with the Nederlands Dans Theater.

Clara began her career as an opera choreographer at Vadstena Academy 2005, establishing long-term collaborations with directors such as Elisabeth Linton and Nils Spangenberg and has been engaged as a choreographer for opera houses such as Göteborg Opera, Den Jyske Opera and the Royal Danish Theatre in Copenhagen.

Clara made her directorial debut in 2012 with Donizetti's *Enrico di Borgogna* for Vadstena-Akademien, which was followed by productions in cooperation with conductor Olof Boman för Kongsberg Festspillen i Kongsberg, Norway, where she staged *Ernelinde, princess de Norvège* by Philidor 2014 and Haydn's *Creation* in 2015.

Clara got her breakthrough as a director in 2019 with Telemann's *Orpheus* for Vadstena Summer Opera Festival and she returned to Vadstena in 2022 for Pollarolo's *Il colore fa la regina*. The same year Clara directed *Det Stora Oväsendet* for Malmö Opera and *Ceciliavesper* for the Confidencen Opera & Music Festival.

Clara has collaborated with independent opera groups such as Den Andra Operan and Kamraterna as a director for performances, staged concerts, and public workshops. Most recently, she directed the project *Caccini Revisited* in 2023, a practical research project exploring *La Liberazione di Ruggiero* by Francesca Caccini, as well as the concert *...facciamo opera* in 2024 with Ann Hallenberg, both for Den Andra Operan. Clara

also directed the staged concert production of *Himlens Hemlighet* by Moses Pergament and Pär Lagerkvist for Kamraterna.

The importance of direction and choreography for the choir in an opera production is a central concern for Clara. Over the years, she has directed several staged choral works for church and amateur choirs, and she has collaborated extensively with choir conductors and church musicians.

Clara teaches movement training for opera students at institutions such as Stockholm Operastudio (formerly Operastudio 67) and the University College of Opera in Stockholm. Clara has directed numerous student productions and staged choral works.

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