

Project Butterfly

Boosting environmental
awareness in opera creation

The Project Butterfly Newsletter
February - March 2025 🦋

FEBRUARY



MARCH



Project Butterfly: February and March Updates - Key Events and Highlights

Let us take you on a journey where music and sustainability take center stage. From important conferences and rehearsals to significant updates and collaborations, we bring you the highlights of our ongoing efforts to reshape the future of opera with sustainability at its core.

Stay tuned for a look at what we've accomplished and what's coming next!

- **18 February: Creative Europe Desk in Rome**

Project Butterfly was selected to be among Italy's European cooperation projects presented to the Ministry of Culture for the Info Day of the Creative Europe Desk. Alessandro Roveri, project coordinator, showcased the project at Sala Spadolini in Rome on 18 February, 2025.

- **26 - 28 February: Remote Rehearsals in Modena, Gdansk and Helsinki**

At the end of February, we held a remote rehearsal connecting opera houses in Modena, Gdańsk, and Helsinki. This rehearsal brought together artists from across Europe for a unique performance, combining music, technology, and environmental awareness. Project Butterfly continues to redefine opera, placing sustainability at the heart of its creative process, from staging to eco-friendly practices.

Check out the video of this remarkable rehearsal on our social media channels.

- [ProjectButterfly Instagram](#)
- [ProjectButterfly Facebook](#)
- [ProjectButterfly Twitter](#)
- [ProjectButterfly LinkedIn](#)

- **11 - 13 March: Avatar Creation and Development**

The Project Butterfly team gathered in Augsburg from 11 to 13 March, 2025, at the Heimspiel headquarters to work on the prototype of the avatar that will be placed in the project's three theaters. The audience will be able to interact with the avatar to ask questions about the project, the opera, the cities, the theatres involved, and environmental sustainability in opera.

- **15 - 17 March: Presentation at Opera Europa Barcelona Conference**

Project Butterfly was presented at the annual Opera Europa conference, held in Barcelona from 15 to 18 March, involving over 200 theatres. The project coordinator for the Teatro Comunale di Modena, one of our partners, described the innovative practices and environmental sustainability tools used in the project.





Sustainability and Opera Worldwide: Educating Audiences and Raising Awareness for the Final Production

Case Study | Beyond European Borders: The Sydney Opera House: A World-Leading Sustainability Performance

As the final opera production approaches, sustainability in the performing arts is becoming an essential focus. Looking beyond European borders, the Sydney Opera House stands out as a pioneering example of how cultural institutions can lead the way in environmental responsibility.

Recognised with a 6-star Green Star performance rating, the highest in the industry, the Sydney Opera House has implemented groundbreaking initiatives to reduce its environmental footprint. These include 100% renewable energy usage, a state-of-the-art seawater cooling system, and a commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2025. The venue also prioritises waste reduction and sustainable procurement, setting a global benchmark for greener performance spaces.

This case study highlights how opera houses and cultural institutions worldwide can integrate sustainability into their operations, aligning these efforts with audience education and the broader commitment to environmentally responsible productions.

Stay tuned to our social networks this week, as we will be sharing more details and insights about this inspiring case study!

[Learn more about Project Butterfly here!](#)

Key Dates in Opera, Music, and Sustainability: Interesting Facts and Anniversaries to Remember



KEY DATES TO KEEP IN MIND!



- 17th February: F. Liszt Birth's Anniversary
- 24th February: G. F. Handel's Opera *Rinaldo* premiered in London
- 27th February: Maria Anderson Birth's Anniversary
- 4th March: Jean Baptiste Lully Birth's Anniversary
- 10th March: F. Schubert Birth's Anniversary

Let's take a quick look at the most important dates, key milestones, and anniversaries that took place in February and are happening in March. These are moments in the world of opera, music, and sustainability, reflecting both the rich history and the ongoing evolution of the industry.

• 17 February: Anniversary of F. Liszt's Birth

Franz Liszt (1811-1886) was a Hungarian composer, virtuoso pianist, and conductor, renowned for his groundbreaking contributions to romantic music. His innovative compositions, such as symphonic poems and opera transcriptions, deeply influenced the development of opera, particularly in integrating orchestral colour and emotional depth, influencing composers like Richard Wagner and shaping the opera repertoire of the 19th century.

• 24 February: G.F. Handel's Opera *Rinaldo* premiered in London

On February 24, 1711, George Frideric Handel's opera *Rinaldo* premiered in London, marking a milestone in the history of English opera. The work, based on the epic poem *Jerusalem Delivered* by Torquato Tasso, was a huge success and is notable for its beautiful arias and inventive orchestration, solidifying Handel's reputation as a master of Baroque opera. *Rinaldo* played a key role in establishing Handel's dominance in the London opera scene and continues to be celebrated for its dramatic intensity and musical brilliance.

• 27 February: Anniversary of Maria Anderson's Birth

On February 27, 1897, the American contralto Marian Anderson was born. She went on to become one of the most influential opera singers of the 20th century. Known for her powerful and expressive voice, Anderson broke racial barriers in the classical music world, performing at prestigious venues like the Metropolitan Opera and the White House. Her historic 1939 concert at the Lincoln Memorial, after being denied a performance at Constitution Hall due to racial segregation, remains a symbol of resilience and the fight for civil rights. Anderson's legacy continues to inspire artists and activists alike.

• 10 March: Anniversary of F. Schubert's Birth

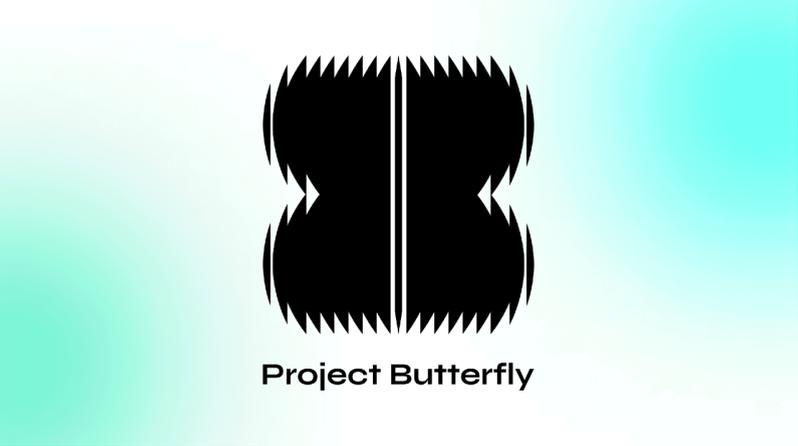
Franz Schubert, born on March 10, 1797, was an Austrian composer renowned for his symphonies, chamber music, and over 600 art songs. Though he is best known for his Lieder (songs), Schubert's contributions to opera were also significant, especially in his operatic arias and the emotional depth of his music. While he did not compose many operas, his works were later influential in the romantic operatic style, with his melodies and harmonies inspiring composers like Wagner and Verdi. Schubert's rich legacy continues to shape both vocal and instrumental music in opera.

• 31st March: J. S. Bach Birth's Anniversary

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) was a German composer and musician, renowned for his mastery of counterpoint and harmony. While his primary focus was on sacred and instrumental music, including *The Well-Tempered Clavier* and *Mass in B minor*, his work influenced the development of opera.

Though Bach didn't compose opera himself, his vocal music, especially his use of recitative and aria forms, influenced later opera composers, contributing to the emotional depth and complexity in the Baroque opera tradition.

Check out our Instagram for updates!



Project Butterfly Team

The project is implemented by:

Project Butterfly, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Opera Bałtycka w Gdańsku, OPERA BOX, heimspiel, AESS, CUMEDIAE, European Union

Associated partners:

Comune di Modena, ARS ELECTRONICA, Consortium GARR, KITV NATIONAL ACADEMIC OPERETTA'S THEATRE, Co-funded by the European Union

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