

Project Butterfly

Boosting environmental
awareness in opera creation

The Project Butterfly Newsletter
April 2025 

APRIL



Final Rehearsals and Premiere



From Rehearsals to reality: Project Butterfly takes flight

As the curtain rose at the Teatro Comunale di Modena earlier this month, Project Butterfly officially began its journey across Europe's opera stages. But before the spotlight hit the stage, March concluded with a powerful and emotional period of final rehearsals — the last step in a long creative journey.

In the days leading up to the premiere, Modena became a hub of artistic energy. Directors, performers, and creative teams gathered to perfect the three acts:

- ✦ Lake of Ashes
- ✦ Breathe
- ✦ Perla di Speranza

These sessions were intense and inspiring — every transition, every gesture, every note carefully shaped to bring audiences not just an opera, but a message. Behind the scenes, the collaboration was fuelled by a shared purpose: to use the power of performance to reflect on our impact on the planet and our potential to protect it.

Now, as the production moves forward across different European opera houses this April, May, and June, we carry the momentum of those rehearsals with us — and the passion of everyone who made this vision possible.

Project Butterfly is more than a performance. It's a call to action — and we're just getting started.



Project Butterfly comes to life in Modena

A Premiere to remember

On Friday, 11 April, the curtain rose at Teatro Comunale di Modena for the much-awaited Premiere of Project Butterfly — a powerful culmination of months of creative collaboration, rehearsal, and vision.

The evening was more than just an opening night; it was a celebration of cross-border storytelling. Students from Modena and Gdansk, who co-authored the Italian and Polish pieces, were in attendance, witnessing their work come to life through music, movement, and emotion. Their presence added an extra layer of depth and authenticity to the performance.

The production seamlessly blended the dreamlike essence of Polish onirism, the stillness of Finnish tones, and the vibrant passion of Italian tradition. It all came together to deliver a single, compelling message: *Humanity is both a threat to our planet and the hope for its recovery in the face of climate change.*

The magic continued into Sunday, 13 April, as Modena hosted the second performance, reinforcing the importance of Project Butterfly not just as an opera but a bold statement for environmental consciousness and sustainable cultural practices.

As the production now prepares to travel across Europe (Helsinki May 2 and 3, Gdansk 31 May and 1 June), we carry forward the energy and passion of this premiere, using the power of the arts to spark awareness and inspire meaningful change.

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

Key Dates in Opera, Music, and Sustainability

Interesting facts and Anniversaries to keep in mind

As we move through April, let's take a moment to highlight some of the most important dates, key milestones, and anniversaries in the world of opera, music, and sustainability. These moments not only reflect the rich history of the arts but also underscore the ongoing evolution and growing commitment to sustainability in cultural creation.



KEY DATES TO REMEMBER!



- 7 April: World Health Day
- 13 April: Opening of the Festival of the Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy (Founded in 1958)
- 20 April: The First Performance of "Carmen" (1875)
- 22 April: International Earth Day
- 30 April: International Jazz Day

- **7 April: World Health Day**

On World Health Day, we recognise the powerful connection between health, well-being, and the arts. Opera, with its deep emotional storytelling and music, has long been a source of healing and mental rejuvenation. Its transformative performances provide a unique therapeutic experience, offering both emotional support and a sense of community. Many opera companies now incorporate wellness initiatives, showing how opera is increasingly seen as a tool for mental health and emotional well-being. On this day, we celebrate opera's essential role in fostering connection and improving emotional health.

- **13 April: Opening of the Festival of the Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy (Founded in 1958)**

The Spoleto Festival of the Two Worlds, which opened on 13th April, is a major cultural event that highlights the beauty of opera and classical music in the stunning setting of Spoleto, Italy. Known for its rich programming, the festival showcases world-class opera performances that explore timeless human themes through powerful music and storytelling. Alongside opera, classical music concerts provide audiences with unforgettable orchestral and chamber performances.

This festival is a testament to the enduring impact of opera and classical music in the cultural landscape, offering a unique opportunity to experience the transformative power of the arts in a beautiful, immersive setting.

- **20 April: The First Performance of Carmen (1875)**

On 20 April 1875, Georges Bizet's iconic opera *Carmen* premiered at the Opéra-Comique in Paris. Initially met with mixed reviews, the opera quickly became a global favourite, renowned for its passionate story and unforgettable music. Today, *Carmen* is one of the most performed operas worldwide, celebrated for its compelling characters, dramatic themes, and timeless music. Its enduring popularity is a testament to its emotional depth and lasting impact on the world of opera.

- **22 April: International Earth Day**

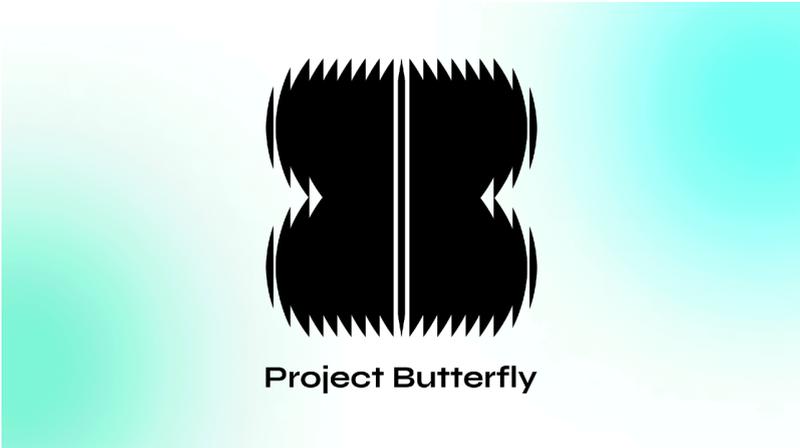
On Earth Day, we celebrate sustainability and environmental consciousness, and opera and music play a vital role in this conversation. Many opera performances and music festivals on this day highlight environmental themes, using the arts to raise awareness about climate change and promote sustainability. Through powerful storytelling and emotive music, opera can inspire audiences to reflect on humanity's impact on the planet and the need for action to mitigate this impact, making Earth Day a meaningful occasion to unite creativity and environmental responsibility.

• 30 April: International Jazz Day

International Jazz Day on 30 April celebrates the unifying power of music across cultures. While jazz is the primary focus, its spirit of creativity and collaboration is shared by opera and all forms of music. Both genres foster dialogue, inspire social change, and promote cultural exchange.

As with opera, jazz transcends boundaries, using music to connect people, reflect on human experiences, and advocate for inclusivity and sustainability. On this day, we celebrate how all music—whether jazz, opera, or classical—can inspire global cooperation and bring people together through shared emotional expression.

Check out our Instagram for updates!



Project Butterfly Team

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