

CHRISTIAN RÄTH

DIRECTOR, DESIGNER

‘A riveting and rousing piece. Christian Räth’s astute production makes a case for 19th-century French grand opera’

Wall Street Journal reviews Meyerbeer’s *Le Prophète*, Bard Summerscape

A native of Hamburg, director and stage designer Christian Räth works at many of the world’s leading opera houses. His wide-ranging repertoire encompasses works by Wagner, Strauss, Janáček, Puccini, Verdi, Donizetti, Mozart, Britten, and Bartók, as well as musicals and contemporary creations.

Recent productions include his direction and design of Richard Strauss’s *Die ägyptische Helena* at Bard SummerScape and the world premiere of Toshio Hosokawa’s *Natasha* at the New National Theatre Tokyo. Projects in 2026–27 include *Tristan & Isolde* with Taipei Symphony Orchestra, created originally for The Dallas Opera.

He has also directed and designed Meyerbeer’s *Le prophète*, Strauss’s *Die schweigsame Frau*, and Korngold’s *Das Wunder der Heliane* at Bard SummerScape. Other notable new productions include *Der Freischütz* and *Macbeth* at the Wiener Staatsoper, *Le Baron Tzigane* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, *L’italiana in Algeri* in Portland, Tchaikovsky’s *Iolanta* for The Dallas Opera and Göteborg Opera, and *Kiss Me, Kate* for Haut école de musique de Genève, in collaboration with Théâtre du Galpon, Geneva.

Other titles include Verdi’s rarely performed comic opera *Un Giorno di Regno* (*King for a Day*) for Glimmerglass Festival, *Falstaff* at Washington National Opera, *Roméo et Juliette* at Houston Grand Opera, *Fidelio* and *Luisa Miller* at The Dallas Opera, *Die Zauberflöte* at Cairo Opera House and *Carmen* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

Beyond the opera stage, Räth has conceived, designed, and directed landmark large-scale cultural events in Egypt, including *The Pharaohs’ Golden Parade*, the internationally televised procession of 22 royal mummies through Cairo, and the monumental opening ceremony of Luxor’s ancient Avenue of the Sphinxes. In 2024 he was Artistic Director of the Silver Jubilee at the Royal Court of Jordan.

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Räth has enjoyed a collaboration with director Laurent Pelly; spanning many years; he has been Associate and Revival Director for many of Pelly's productions, including *Il Turco in Italia*, *Così fan tutte*, *Falstaff*, *Barbe bleue*, *Viva la Mamma!*, *Le Coq d'Or*, *Le roi carotte*, *Le Comte Ory*, *La fille du régiment*, *Manon*, *Cendrillon*, *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, *La traviata*, *La vie parisienne*, *La grande-duchesse de Gérolstein* and *L'elisir d'amore*.

He has also enjoyed collaborations with directors Robert Carsen and Francesco Zambello. Projects with Carsen include Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame* (Opernhaus Zürich, Opéra national du Rhin), and he was Senior Associate Director for Zambello's complete *Ring* for San Francisco Opera, in co-production with Washington National Opera, which will be revived again in San Francisco over coming seasons.

Räth obtained a master's degree in Musiktheater-Regie from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Hamburg and studied musicology, literature and psychology at the University of Hamburg. In 1995 he was invited to join the Grand Théâtre de Genève, where he held the position of Staff Director until 2001.