



## OVERVIEW OF THE 2021 EDITION

### The 2021 Edition of the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence: A Great Success for a Festival of Great Renewal 38,336 Tickets for Opera and Concert Performances in July 2021

Designed as a festival of great renewal, the 73<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, which ended on Sunday, 25 July, was a colossal success, thanks to a record **7 new opera productions, including 2 world premiere, and 15 concerts.**

Despite the complexity of the current health situation, this reunion with festival-goers went smoothly and drew large, enthusiastic crowds.

## FESTIVAL D'AIX – 73<sup>rd</sup> EDITION

30 JUNE–25 JULY 2021

7 opera productions and one opera in concert version

5 guest orchestras

15 concerts

Attendance rate for operas: 85% (with capacities authorised at 100% — see below)

**Two world premieres** marked this edition: Kaija Saariaho's *Innocence*, initially scheduled for 2020, and Samir Odeh Tamimi's *The Arab Apocalypse*, composed on a text by Etel Adnan and performed at the Grande Halle of the Luma Foundation in Arles, with whom the Festival partnered for the very first time.

## SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

**Special measures** put in place to deal with the current health situation helped ensure that artists and orchestras, as well as other team members, would be safe during rehearsals and throughout the entirety of the Festival. Despite border restrictions, all international artists, including musicians from the **London Symphony Orchestra**, were able to participate in this remarkable edition.

Thanks to the increase to 100% capacity on 30 June, we were able to welcome large audiences; and our informational and support initiative allowed us to implement the *pass sanitaire* (French health pass) without difficulty, while limiting the constraints on our audiences.

**The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of *Aix en Juin*** unfolded with a modified programme and reduced capacities in order to ensure social distancing. It was **entirely free**, and ended with the traditional Parade[s] concert.

*“At the conclusion of the Board of Directors meeting held on 23 July, the directors expressed their heartfelt congratulations to **Pierre Audi** and the **Festival team** for the **noteworthy success of the 2021 edition**. The entire Board recognizes the vision that was necessary to put this Festival together, the tenacity it took to keep it on track despite the hazards of the current health crisis, and the ability of all team members to adapt given the ever-changing constraints.”*

## RECORDINGS AND BROADCASTS

### TV & INTERNET

**5 operas** broadcast live and available for streaming on line (Arte, Arte.tv, Mezzo, France.TV)

### RADIO

**6 evening events** live on France Musique

**4 special Festival programmes** live on France Musique

### SCREENINGS

**19 screenings** of operas in **12 towns** in the Provence–Alpes–Côte d'Azur (PACA) region

## MEDITERRANEAN YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Despite restrictions for travelling, a major component of the MYO, the **2 scheduled residencies** were reimagined and took place in Aix. The MYO also held **2 concerts in Aix-en-Provence** and **4 concerts on tour**, all of which met with great success.

## ACADÉMIE DU FESTIVAL D'AIX – 23<sup>rd</sup> EDITION

Reorganised to adapt to health constraints and travel restrictions, the **Académie was able to offer 8 residencies**, which united artists from a variety of artistic fields—including singers, musicians, opera makers, and conductors—and journalists.

## PASSERELLES

### EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIO-ARTISTIC INITIATIVES

Initiatives by the Passerelles department were maintained throughout the year despite restrictions, thanks especially to a digital educational space, which was promoted by educational and socio-artistic partners of the Festival.

An easing of restrictions in June and July made it possible for **5,000 people** from the various groups supported by Passerelles to attend Festival rehearsals and performances.

## THE DIGITAL STAGE

5 recordings of operas and one concert

7 pre-performance introductions, recorded as podcasts\*

9 tête-à-têtes with 14 artists, recorded on video\*

5 reports on Passerelles, Académie and Parade[s] events

\*content available on [#LASCÈNENUMÉRIQUE](https://www.festival-aix.com/fr/numerique) until 31 October.