



OOPPERA
BALETTI

Finnish world premiere at the National Opera stars Anne Sofie von Otter

The much-anticipated highlight of the 2017–2018 season at the National Opera is the world premiere of a new Finnish opera, *Höstsonaten – Autumn Sonata*, on the 8th of September 2017. The opera brings together a story by cinema legend Ingmar Bergman, the music of Sebastian Fagerlund and the voice of one of today's most highly-esteemed mezzo-sopranos, Anne Sofie von Otter.

"This opera, commissioned from me by the Finnish National Opera, is a multi-layered and powerful relationship drama," says composer **Sebastian Fagerlund** who is currently the focus of increasing international attention. Fagerlund is particularly renowned for his large-scale works, his deep and intense expression and his virtuoso handling of the orchestra. *Höstsonaten – Autumn Sonata* is Fagerlund's second opera.

The libretto of the opera, based on Bergman's film script, has been written by **Gunilla Hemming**. In the story a famed pianist, Charlotte Andergast, visits her daughter after a long absence. The family conflicts are revealed little by little. The role of Charlotte, specially composed for **Anne Sofie von Otter**, is the world-renowned star's first opera role on the FNO stage.

"The underlying themes of the opera are universal: forgiveness and the ability to accept others as they are. Even as I was beginning the composition process, I felt as if the story and its characters were waiting for me somewhere in the depths of my mind," Fagerlund describes.

The production is directed by **Stéphane Braunschweig** from France and conducted by **John Storgårds** who returns to lead the FNO Orchestra after a break of nearly 11 years. Besides von Otter, the opera is starred by **Erika Sunnegårdh**, **Helena Juntunen**, **Tommi Hakala** and **Nicholas Söderlund**.

Sebastian Fagerlund: *Höstsonaten – Autumn Sonata*
World premiere at the Finnish National Opera 8.9.2017
Other performances 13.9., 16.9., 19.9., 23.9., 26.9., 30.9. and 5.10.
Tickets 16–129 euro

The Finnish Broadcasting Company Yle will stream and record *Höstsonaten – Autumn Sonata*, which can be seen on the Yle Teema television channel and online at yle.fi/klassinen on Saturday the 23rd of September. The opera will also be featured at [The Opera Platform](http://TheOperaPlatform) online showcase.

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