



## **A brief guide to Vadstena-Akademien**

At Vadstena-Akademien, we create opera for the future. We do this by commissioning new operas or by performing older operas that have often been entirely, and undeservedly, forgotten. We also create opera for the future through our special educational activities. At Vadstena-Akademien, the artists are young and just starting out in their careers. They receive guidance from experienced professionals who are already active in the industry. Our opera performances and artists resonate far beyond our region's boundaries. Malena Ernman, Loa Falkman and Anne Sofie von Otter are among the many who have had their *début* on our stages. Vadstena-Akademien works for a revitalisation of the art of opera and, despite its size, is Sweden's biggest commissioner of newly composed operas.

### **Why it is called Vadstena AKADEMIEN and not Vadstena OPERA?**

Because the core of our activities is about the education and training of young opera artists – singers and musicians but also costume designers, lighting technicians and producers.

### **Who does the best opera in Sweden?**

What is the 'best opera' is of course a matter of taste. But most of the new operas in Sweden are performed at Vadstena-Akademien. That's a fact.

### **Do you tour a lot abroad?**

No, what's international about our Academy is instead that we invite interesting opera artists and technicians in all categories from all over the world to come to Vadstena.

### **How can one research in the field of opera?**

Our research activities are focused on both the past and the future. The future through workshops and seminars around commissioning and printing new operas and by broadening the available repertoire so that there are more new operas to perform. The past, from which there are many works that have been lost or forgotten in the archives. Not all of them have been forgotten because they are bad. By performing the forgotten, good operas, we shed new light on the historical opera repertoire.

### **Why don't you have any celebrities in the roles?**

Because artists often become celebrities AFTER they have performed in our operas. Malena Ernman, Loa Falkman, Anne Sofie von Otter and Nina Stemme are just a few of the opera singers who started their careers in our stages.

### **How can I find out more?**

Take a look at [www.vadstena-akademien.org](http://www.vadstena-akademien.org) or come to one of our performances!