

## Rave reviews for Lise Davidsen's Tosca

'A Tosca for the history books', said one reviewer after the opening night of the 2023 Bergen International Festival, where Lise Davidsen made her stage debut in the role.

Lise Davidsen is the [artist in residence at the 2023 Bergen International Festival](#), and *Tosca* was the first of several events featuring the Norwegian star soprano.

With Their Majesties King Harald V and Queen Sonja of Norway present at the opening night, Lise Davidsen wowed the audience and critics, together with fellow soloists tenor Freddie De Tommaso and Sir Bryn Terfel and the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Edward Gardner. The performance garnered rave reviews, with the Norwegian national broadcaster NRK calling it 'historic' and 'a unique event'.



The Bergen International Festival, the flagship of music and theatre festivals in the Nordic countries, began its 71st edition on Wednesday 24 May. The opening ceremony was the celebrated [What Is the City but the People?](#), directed by Richard Gregory. The performance was a living, breathing portrait of the city where 150 members of the community were presented through photos and text fragments on a giant catwalk. The event drew an audience of 3500.

The 15-day festival contains hundreds of individual events. Other highlights include the world premiere of Norwegian playwright [Jon Fosse's newest play, Inside the Black Forest](#), [Polish pianist Hania Rani](#), Norwegian singer-songwriters [Nils Bech](#) and [Sondre Lerche](#), and classical stars [Gautier Capuçon](#), [Bomsori](#), [Fabio Biondi with his ensemble Europa Galante](#) as well as [Isabelle Faust with Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin](#). The Festival composer is [Anne-Marie Ørbeck \(1911–1996\)](#), the first Norwegian woman to compose a symphony, whose works are seldom performed today.

The Bergen International Festival continues until 7 June, and will end with [its signature work, Edvard Grieg's Concerto in A minor](#).

*Photo above: Lise Davidsen in Puccini's Tosca. Photo: Thor Brødreskift*

See also:

- [Press photos from Tosca](#)
- [Stream from the opening ceremony: What is the City but the People?](#)
- [Press photos from Bergen International Festival 2023](#)

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## Facts/Bergen International Festival

- The 71st Bergen International Festival takes place from 24 May to 7 June 2023.
- Presents hundreds of live artistic experiences in several dozen venues indoors and out every year and is considered a flagship amongst the Nordic music and theatre festivals.
- The Bergen International Festival has a long-standing tradition of focusing on a composer or artist each year. Past artists in residence include the Kronos Quartet (2022), Jörg Widmann (2020), Anne Sofie von Otter (2003) and Randi Stene (1998).
- Festival Director Lars Petter Hagen started his tenure on 1 May 2022.
- The Bergen International Festival 2022 had over 70 000 visits.

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