

## Clara Svärd Director, Choreographer

Clara Svärd will in the upcoming season direct Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at the Royal Swedish Opera. Her most recent work in opera include Händel's *Giulio Cesare* for Unga Operan / Royal Swedish Opera (2025), *Pride and Prejudice/Stolthet och fördom* by Daniel Nelson and Sofia Fredén for Norrlandsoperan (2024), as well as *Mytomania* by Paula af Malmberg Ward for Göteborg Opera (2023). She also worked as choreographer on *The Ghost Factory/Andefabriken* for Vadstena Academy Summer Opera Festival Vadstena-Akademien, directed by Nils Spangenberg.

Clara Svärd has been active in the field of opera since the early 2000s. After dance studies at Balettakademien's Professional School, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Choreography from Roehampton University in London and pursued physical theater training for opera singers with Willy Verkuil at the Dutch opera academy De Nieuwe Opera Academie. During her studies, she interned with director and opera/theater choreographer Stuart Hopps as well as with the Nederlands Dans Theater.

Clara began her career as an opera choreographer at Vadstena Academy 2005, establishing long-term collaborations with directors such as Elisabeth Linton and Nils Spangenberg and has been engaged as a choreographer for opera houses such as Göteborg Opera, Den Jyske Opera and the Royal Danish Theatre in Copenhagen.

Clara made her directorial debut in 2012 with Donizetti's *Enrico di Borgogna* for Vadstena-Akademien, which was followed by productions in cooperation with conductor Olof Boman för Kongsberg Festspille i Kongsberg, Norway, where she staged *Ernelinde, princess de Norvège* by Philidor 2014 and Haydn's *Creation* in 2015.

Clara got her breakthrough as a director in 2019 with Telemann's *Orpheus* for Vadstena Summer Opera Festival and she returned to Vadstena in 2022 for Pollarolo's *Il colore fa la regina*. The same year Clara directed *Det Stora Oväsendet* for Malmö Opera and *Ceciliavesper* for the Confidencen Opera & Music Festival.

Clara regularly collaborates with independent opera groups such as Den Andra Operan, Kamraterna and Göteborg Baroque. In 2025 she directed the staged concert of Händel's *Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno* for Göteborg Baroque.

For Den Andra Operan she directed the performance *..facciamo opera!* with Ann Hallenberg in 2024 and in 2023 *Caccini revisited*, a practical research project exploring *La Liberazione di Ruggiero* by Francesca Caccini. Clara also directed the staged concert production of *Himlens Hemlighet* by Moses Pergament and Pär Lagerkvist for Kamraterna.

A central focus of Clara's work is the direction and choreography for the choir in the context of an operatic production. Over the years, she has directed several staged choral works for church and amateur choirs, and she has collaborated extensively with choir conductors and church musicians.

Clara teaches movement training for opera students at institutions such as Stockholm Operastudio (formerly Operastudio 67) and the University College of Opera in Stockholm. Clara has directed numerous student productions and staged choral works.

March 2026

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