

The new opera season starts in October with a superb programme full of premieres

ABAO BILBAO OPERA PRESENTS ITS 73RD SEASON: BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERNITY

- Seven operas, three in a triad format, span through comedy, verism and romantic drama.
- To commemorate the centenary of Puccini's death, ABAO schedules *Il Trittico* in November for the first time in its history.
- The baritone Amartuvshin Enkhbat returns to Bilbao for an extraordinary recital.
- New productions, top figures and renowned conductors are the highlights in an irresistible, exciting and ambitious season.
- ABAO Txiki reaches 20 editions and also brings new premieres to the Arriaga Theatre.
- With the commitment to bring opera closer to society as a whole, the price of 15 membership subscription categories has been reduced and the price of 2,660 seats in five different areas has improved in each title of this new season.
- The "ABAO Benefactor" programme is launched, with different modalities of contribution and support to the Association's cultural activity.
- The BBVA Foundation collaborates with ABAO Bilbao Opera's cultural activity as the season's main sponsor

Bilbao, 7 May 2024. **ABAO Bilbao Opera's 73rd Season 2024-2025** starts on Saturday **October 19** with *Don Pasquale* by Donizetti. A season that ranges from the universal tradition of the 19th Century's late romanticism and post-romanticism models to the evolutionary modernity of the change to the 20th century, with comedy, verism and drama registers.

The new season grows with more cultural and educational activities, social programmes and an artistic proposal that includes eleven titles: **seven operas** at **Euskalduna Bilbao** and four shows at the **Arriaga Theatre**.

Under the heading "**Irresistibly opera**", leading figures of the international scene, renowned conductors, premieres, new productions and co-productions and a constant search for top quality underpin the new opera season in Bilbao to seduce members as well as aficionados.

MAIN FEATURES OF THE NEW SEASON

- ABAO Bilbao Opera and the **BBVA Foundation, the season's main sponsor**, contribute to promoting operatic excellence and culture, bringing top-quality shows to the public.
- Well-known titles of the Italian repertoire, such as *Don Pasquale* and *Otello*, combine with other less frequent titles of the French repertoire, such as *La Favorite*, a premiere at ABAO; the German repertoire, with *Tristan und Isolde* and, to commemorate the centenary of Puccini's death, for the first time at ABAO, *Il Trittico*, with *Il Tabarro*, *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*.
- Worthy of note amongst the scheduled operas and shows is the **ABAO's new productions and co-productions for *Don Pasquale* and *Il Trittico*** as well as the revival of *Otello*, which is also an ABAO's production.

- A total of **11 titles, one recital and 39 performances will be held**, 22 within the general season at Euskalduna Bilbao and 17 for children and young people within the ABAO Txiki season at the Arriaga Theatre, reaching an audience of **66,300 people**.
- **The conductors** who visit the new season: **Sesto Quatrini, Pedro Halffter, Eric Nielsen, Riccardo Frizza** and **Francesco Ivan Ciampa** lead the **Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa** and the **Euskadiko Orkestra** which, together with the **Bilbao Opera Choir**, enlarge their repertoire and consolidate the artistic renown of ABAO's regular collaborators.
- **Great voices** that have triumphed in the major opera houses of the world, such as **Carlos Álvarez, Ángeles Blancas, Karita Mattila, Chiara Isotton, Gwyn Hughes Jones, Oksana Dyka, Silvia Tro Santafé, Ismael Jordi, Jorge de León** and **Ermonela Jaho**, are amongst the **56 artists** who are participating in the new season.
- After his success in Bilbao, the eminent baritone **Amartuvshin Enkhbat**, considered the best "Rigoletto", stars in an **exclusive recital**.
- **The ABAO Txiki season**, which has completed **two decades**, offers **4 shows** for different ages. Three of them with school sessions that restate **ABAO's commitment to learning, music education as well as children and families**.
- **Two premieres in the ABAO Txiki season:** *D'Artagnan y los Jóvenes Mosqueteros* (*D'Artagnan and the Young Musketeers*) and *¡Soy Salvaje! (I am Wild)*.
- The **didactic and educational programme** offers numerous free activities for groups of different ages and origins, both in the Basque Country and in nearby Communities.
- The young laboratory **Gazteam** takes hold with activities as well as economic incentives for **people under 25 and under 30**.
- The **"Ópera y +"** social solidarity programme at **Cruces University Hospital** undertakes its tenth edition and is now fully established, with activities both inside as well as outside the Hospital in collaboration with **EDP Foundation, "La Caixa" Foundation** and **Zabalgardi**.
- **New membership subscription rates for members from €165-213, and reduced ticket prices from €25**, depending on the area and the age.

73RD OPERA SEASON

The 73rd ABAO Bilbao Opera season, with a **wide range of plot themes, styles and musical characteristics**, spans from the languages of the mid-19th Century's romantic period to the evolutionary transition that started to flourish with the turn of the century.

Four composers: **Donizetti, Puccini, Wagner and Verdi** bring to ABAO's stage well-known titles of the Italian repertoire, such as *Don Pasquale*, *La Favorite* in French, a premiere at ABAO, and *Otello*, combined with *Tristan und Isolde* from the German repertoire. Moreover, ABAO schedules *Il Trittico* for the first time, to commemorate **Puccini's centenary** in November.

A new season in which **new co-productions as well as ABAO's own productions are premiered and two stage directors, a music director and seven singers make their debut**. The **Opera Choir of Bilbao**, conducted by Boris Dujin, is in charge of the choral part of the season and, together with the **Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa** and the **Euskadiko Orkestra**, which enjoy growing national and international renown, participate in the programme as regular collaborators of ABAO Bilbao Opera.

Worthy of note is the presence on stage of great female performers: **Ángeles Blancas, Chiara Isotton, Karita Mattila, Maria José Moreno, Oksana Dyka, Silvia Tro Santafé** and **Ermonela Jaho**. With them, remarkable male voices, such as **Carlos Álvarez, Ismael Jordi, Amartuvshin Enkhbat, Simón Orfila, Gwyn Hughes Jones** and **Jorge de León**, are amongst the **56 artists** who visit this season.

Moreover, like every season, ABAO Bilbao Opera also carries out an intense **cultural activity** with conference cycles, didactic lectures, guided visits, loyalty building and new audience engagement as well as other social and cultural activities in collaboration with various institutions and companies, within the territory and in adjoining Autonomous Communities.

The **BBVA Foundation**, whose distinguishing feature is the promotion of scientific knowledge and cultural creation, collaborates with ABAO Bilbao Opera as **the season's main sponsor**.

Gaetano Donizetti

DON PASQUALE

19, 22, 25, 26 (Opera Berri) and 28 October, 2024

- **Simón Orfila and Maria José Moreno lead the cast.**
- **On stage a witty, entertaining and original production by Emiliano Suárez for ABAO Bilbao Opera in co-production with The Nouse**
- **Maestro Sesto Quatrini makes his debut leading the Euskadiko Orkestra.**
- **19th edition of the Opera Berri programme with a second cast, featuring Enric Martínez-Castignani and Sofía Esparza in the leading roles, and tickets at half the usual price.**

ABAO Bilbao Opera schedules for the fifth time ***Don Pasquale***, the last of the great Italian comic operas, inspired by the *commedia dell'arte*.

In this opera, Donizetti seeks a critique of social mores as the main thread of the plot and, to this end, he devises a situation comedy focused on four characters: the domineering, foolish and cantankerous Don Pasquale, played by **Simón Orfila**; the lovers: the naive Ernesto and the clever Norina, played by **Maria José Moreno** and **Francesco de Muro**; and Doctor Malatesta, in the traditional role of mediator and accomplice of intrigues, played by **Damián del Castillo**. The well-known actor **Pedro Mari Sanchez** plays the role of the Notary.

It is a distinguished and well-articulated comedy full of feeling, with a succession of comic and lyrical, extravagant and tender, critical and endearing scenes with an elegant combination of arias, duets and ensembles.

As for the music, Maestro **Sesto Quatrini** makes his debut leading the **Euskadiko Orkestra**, conducting what is considered to be Donizetti's most balanced and perfect score.

On stage, a new **co-production by ABAO Bilbao Opera and Okapi Producciones** signed by **Emiliano Suárez** in his debut at ABAO, recreating a charming Neapolitan pizza parlour with a witty, clever and original scenic solution full of movement, which also stands out for the abundance of detail.

On the 26th of October this title includes an **Opera Berri** performance. This social-cultural initiative by ABAO Bilbao Opera reaches its 19th edition and aims at bringing opera closer to society, with well-known titles and tickets at half the usual price. The second cast stars **Enric Martínez-Castignani, Sofía Esparza** and **Juan Antonio Sanabria**.

Giacomo Puccini

IL TRITTICO

23, 26, 29 November and 2 December, 2024

- Scheduled for the first time at ABAO Bilbao Opera to commemorate the centenary of the composer's death.
- Three titles featuring Carlos Álvarez, Ángeles Blancas and Marco Berti in *Il Tabarro*, Chiara Isotton and Karita Mattila in *Suor Angelica*, and again Carlos Álvarez and Sofia Esparza in *Gianni Schicchi*.
- As for the music, the outstanding Maestro Pedro Halffter leading the Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa.
- New production by ABAO Bilbao Opera signed by Paco Azorín.
- Sponsored by BBVA Foundation.

The 29th of November marks the centenary of the death of Giacomo Puccini, a true musical genius, a unique and unclassifiable personality and a theatrical master whose operas are amongst the essential masterpieces in the history of opera, and his characters and heroines amongst the most famous and popular. To commemorate this anniversary, **ABAO schedules *Il Trittico* in full for the first time in its history.**

With death as the main thread, *Il Trittico* is a trilogy of three short operas: *Il Tabarro*, *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*. Inspired by Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy*, Puccini wanted *Il Tabarro*, tragic and veristic, to represent hell; *Suor Angelica*, melancholic and lyrical, purgatory; and *Gianni Schicchi*, heaven, in the form of a comedy.

Vocally speaking, the three works are quite demanding for the singers who participate in them and this operatic triad features soloists such as **Carlos Álvarez, Ángeles Blancas, Marco Berti, Chiara Isotton, Karita Mattila, Ioan Hotea, Stefano Palatchi, Ana Ibarra, Anna Gomá, Sofía Esparza and Itziar de Unda**, amongst the **29 performers who participate in this true artistic "tour de force"**.

Pedro Halffter, conducting the Bilbao **Orkestra Sinfonikoa**, will be in charge of directing the intense and incredible orchestral language and the immense expressive palette, full of colours and textures, of **three scores** with a fast pace and enormous dramatic contrasts.

On stage, **a great production by ABAO Bilbao Opera**, signed by **Paco Azorín**, who presents **the three operas** in a creative manner, recreating three individual paintings with an impressive set design on the move, where lighting and projections play a relevant role, inspired by the Italian neorealism.

Richard Wagner

TRISTAN UND ISOLDE

18, 21, 24 and 27 January, 2025

- A cast comprising the voices of Gwynn Hughes Jones, Oksana Dyka, Daniela Barcellona, Marko Mimica and Egils Silins as the leading quintet.
- Conducted by Erik Nielsen leading the Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa.
- Alex Aguilera signs a production full of intense emotions.
- Sponsored by BBVA Foundation

2025 starts with the ultimate representation of German romanticism, *Tristan und Isolde*, by Richard Wagner, paradigm and fundamental milestone in the history of opera whose prelude definitely laid the foundations for a new compositional path.

This musical drama in three acts with a libretto by the composer himself about the romance of Gottfried von Strassburg, which in turn is based on the medieval legend of "Tristan", tells a love story beyond this world, with room for the most ruthless revenge, the most intoxicating sensuality, the bitterest betrayal and the most heart-breaking loneliness.

To face the great challenge that its musical complexity entails, especially for the leading couple, ABAO has brought together a cast headed by **Oksana Dyka**, currently one of the most important dramatic sopranos, as Isolde, and the Welsh **Gwyn Hughes Jones**, in his debut at ABAO, as Tristan.

With them, the mezzo-soprano **Daniela Barcellona** as the vigilant Brangäne; **Marko Mimica** as König Marke, to whom Wagner gives an intense and sorrowful monologue in the second act; and **Egils Silins** as Kurwenal.

On the podium, conducting a stunning score full of emotion and Wagnerian poetic intensity, Maestro **Eric Nielsen**, leading the **Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa**. The chromaticism, tonality and colour of the score, the famous "Tristan chord" and the leitmotif marked a new visionary, revolutionary and avant-garde approach to musical composition.

On stage, a production by Teatro de la Maestranza devised by **Alex Aguilera**, with a classical style but a modern production, recreating Tristan and Isolde's dream world with new video creation technologies that provide a beautiful visual impact.

Gaetano Donizetti

LA FAVORITE

15, 18, 21 and 24 February, 2025

- **Trio of great leading voices: Silvia Tro Santafé, Ismael Jordi and Vladimir Stoyanov.**
- **Valentina Carrasco signs the production, winner of the Abbiati award for best production in 2022.**
- **Riccardo Frizza, one of the great international maestros, leading the Euskadiko Orkestra.**

In February ABAO Bilbao Opera stages the **second grand premiere of the season, *La favorite***, by Donizetti, in the **original version in French**. Up to now only the version in Italian, *La favorita*, had been performed at ABAO, the last time 25 years ago.

Donizetti's opera has the style of the French *grand opera*, with four acts, *ballet*, choruses and spectacular scenes, and responds to the so-called Spanish exoticism that determined the Romanticism. It is inspired by the relationship between King Alfonso XI of Castile and Leonor de Guzmán, with whom he had nine children outside his relationship with Queen Maria of Portugal. A story with a love triangle, historical figures, abuse of power, sacrifice, tragic fate and moral and religious scandal.

As it is the perfect opera for great voices to excel, it attracts singers of renown in this type of repertoire, such as the Georgian mezzo-soprano **Silvia Tro Santafé**, who plays the role of the long-suffering Leonor De Guzman; the tenor **Ismael Jordi**, as the third point of the love triangle, Fernand; and the baritone **Vladimir Stoyanov**, as the spiteful lover Alphonse XI. **Simón Orfila, Mikeldi Atxalandabaso** and **Alba Chantar** complete the cast.

The Director of the Donizetti Festival of Bergamo, **Riccardo Frizza**, winner of ABAO Bilbao Opera's Tutto Verdi Award, is in charge of conducting the **Euskadiko Orkestra**, providing

music to the **original score**, of extraordinary melodic beauty, dramatic ambition and romanticist *bel canto*.

The production by **Valentina Carrasco**, who makes her debut at ABAO, comes from the Fondazione Teatro Donizetti and Opéra National de Bordeaux, and in 2022 it received the **Abbiati award for best production** from the Italian critics. The Argentinean producer surprises with a proposal from a feminist point of view, elegant, ambitious and with shocking historical references.

Giuseppe Verdi

OTELLO

17, 20, 23 and 26 May, 2025

- **An exceptional cast headed by Jorge de León, Ermonela Jaho and Claudio Sgura.**
- **Classical production by ABAO Bilbao Opera of the director Ignacio Garcia with costumes by Lorenzo Caprile.**
- **Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa faces a score of great dramatic efficacy conducted by Francesco Ivan Ciampa.**

The season ends in May with a real explosion of musical and theatrical tension, Verdi's **Otello**. It is an **essential title**, his penultimate opera, whose musical strength, captivating and unceasing, pervades it from the first beat.

In this tragic and immortal story, love, jealousy, racism, ambition, manipulation and deceit intertwine in the penultimate title of the Verdian repertoire, based on William Shakespeare's homonymous drama, which is a great tribute to the most universal English writer.

To play the protagonists of this lyrical drama, whose three leading roles are amongst Verdi's most demanding, both musically and dramatically speaking, ABAO has brought together a cast headed by the tenor **Jorge de León**, who returns to Bilbao to play the role of Otello and sing the powerful "*Esultate*", one of the most famous and committed tenor openings of the operatic world. With him, the great Albanian soprano **Ermonela Jaho** playing the role of Desdemona, the victim of the tragedy, who embodies the virtues of true love, faith and compassion. The leading trio is completed with a Verdian baritone of reference, **Claudio Sgura**, who plays Jago and his schemes.

The musical part has been entrusted to the Italian conductor **Francesco Ivan Ciampa**, who leads the Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa to make the most of this score that marks the peak in the evolution of the genius from Busseto.

On stage, an ABAO Bilbao Opera production, devised by **Ignacio Garcia** and premiered in 2015. A carefully designed, sober and elegant set with superb *haute couture* costumes, full of colour and sumptuous details, by the amazing designer **Lorenzo Caprile**.

AMARTUVSHIN ENKHBAT, THE BEST "RIGOLETTO", STARS IN AN EXCLUSIVE RECITAL

- **The baritone Amartuvshin Enkhbat is back after his successful *Rigoletto* in Bilbao**
- **At the piano, the renowned Maestro Stefano Salvatore**
- **Concert no included in the subscription.**
- **Sponsored by BBVA Foundation.**

On Saturday, March 29, an **exclusive recital** will take place with the return to the Bilbao scene of the baritone of Mongolian origin **Amartuvshin Enkhbat**.

The baritone's deep, powerful voice, dark and vigorous, and his effective acting ability and theatrical expressiveness make him one of the most relevant and acclaimed figures in the international opera scene.

Last season, the highly praised baritone encored the "Si, vendetta tremenda vendetta" duet in all the ABAO Bilbao Opera performances of *Rigoletto* and gave the audience a double encore in two of the performances together with the soprano Sabina Puértolas. The exceptional talent of the man who is considered the best "Rigoletto" of the current opera scene emerged with vocal plenitude in an intense, enthralling and heroic scene that made a great impact in a performance to remember.

Accompanying at the piano, Maestro **Stefano Salvatori**, who makes his debut in ABAO. He is a composer and conductor and one of the most renowned accompanying pianists. Since 2001 he has been working at Teatro alla Scala in Milan as a collaborating maestro, together with the most prestigious conductors and artists.

The ABAO Concert will have a single performance not included in the subscription.

20TH ABAO TXIKI SEASON

- **Four shows: *Pedro eta Otsoa (Peter and the Wolf)*, *D'Artagnan y los Jóvenes Mosqueteros (D'Artagnan and the Young Musketeers)*, *El Traje Nuevo del Emperador (The Emperor's New Clothes)* and *¡Soy Salvaje! (I am Wild)*.**
- **17 performances for audiences of different ages reaching approximately 18,700 spectators.**
- **Two premieres: *D'Artagnan y los Jóvenes Mosqueteros* and *¡Soy Salvaje!***

ABAO Bilbao Opera maintains its **commitment to education** and the development of younger people through cultural transformation and the scheduling of quality shows. The **20th edition of ABAO Txiki** at the **Arriaga Theatre** is taking hold as far as the artistic as well as the pedagogical aspects are concerned, with **four shows, two of them premiered at ABAO**, with the productions most anticipated by family audiences and **17 performances**, including three school performances aimed at education centres and pre-school and primary education students.

Pedro eta Otsoa (Peter and the Wolf) by **Serguéi Prokófiev** opens the season on 23, 24 and 25 November with a story of intelligence and courage. A title in Basque language where the music and the lit marionettes are the real protagonists, with a **Compañía Etcétera** production by **Enrique Lanz**, devised to show children the different instruments of an orchestra, through the story of Pedro, a child who was able to hunt the wolf using his wit and his courage.

To celebrate the New Year, on 3, 4 and 5 January we will have the **premiere** of *D'Artagnan y los jóvenes mosqueteros (D'Artagnan and the Young Musketeers)*, with music by **Jesús María Echeverría**. Based on the popular literary character created by Alexandre Dumas, the protagonists are now the sons and daughters of the elderly musketeers: two girls who are not afraid of anything or anyone and an enterprising young man. Together, they will defeat the wicked and will find the young Dauphin and future emperor. New production by Ópera de Cámara de Navarra conducted by Víctor Iriarte.

On 15, 16 and 17 March we will have *El traje nuevo del emperador (The Emperor's New Clothes)* with the classic tale by Hans Christian Andersen turning into this comic opera where singers, actors and dancers strive to tell the story of an emperor who was so exceedingly fond of dressing well that he spent all his money on new clothes and did not care for the people in

his kingdom. A production by **Ópera de Cámara de Navarra** with music by **Iñigo Casali** and stage direction by **Ion Barbarin**.

The season comes to an end on 10, 11 and 12 May with the **premiere** in Bilbao of *¡Soy Salvaje!* (*I am Wild*), a multidisciplinary show by **La Maquiné** and **Agencia Andaluza de Instituciones Culturales**, with stage direction by Joaquín Casanova and music by **Delege, Debussy** and **López Montes**. A work that combines opera singing, piano, flute and percussion, together with the use of actors, puppetry, shadows, objects and projections on stage. The story focuses on the relationship between a young girl called Mona, raised in the jungle, and an unhappy gorilla called Koko, raised in captivity; Koko will find her primary instinct to find happiness and will establish a special bond with Mona.

2,660 SEATS HAVE THEIR PRICE REDUCED, INCLUDING SUBSCRIPTIONS AS WELL AS TICKETS

- **The price of subscriptions and tickets has gone down for 31% of the seating spaces.**
- **44 subscription categories from €165 for young people and from €213 for people aged 36 and over.**
- **Tickets in 5 different areas with new prices starting at €25 for young people up to the age of 35 and €49 for people aged 36 and over.**
- **Gazteam Abao flat rate of €28 and €33 for any seat, title or performance.**
- **In October, the Opera Berri performance of *Don Pasquale* offers tickets from €14 and, in March, the recital has tickets from €15.**

The opera season of Bilbao offers **44 subscription categories** for members with new prices **from €213 for people aged 36 and over and €165 for young people up to the age of 35**, including the membership fee. **There has been a reduction in the price of 16 types of subscription** in five areas, in three of them in all the turns.

Ticket costs have also improved in five different areas, with prices from **€25** depending on the seat and the age. Altogether, including new season subscriptions as well as tickets, **2,660 seats will have reduced prices in each title**, which represents **31% of the total seating capacity**.

The **Opera Berri** performance of *Don Pasquale*, on 26 October, has tickets from €14 for young people up to the age of 35 and €29 for people over 36. The **Recital** can also be enjoyed in March with tickets **from €15 and €20**.

Moreover, those under 30 can enjoy the **Gazteam flat rate** during the whole season, for any title and performance and the best seats available, for €28 for young people up to the age of 25 and €33 for people between the ages of 26 and 30.

There are **five types of family subscription** for the four shows of the ABAO Txiki season with prices that range between €35 and €60, and tickets from €6 for children under 15 and €8 for those who are 15 and over.

With this initiative, ABAO Bilbao Opera wants to bring culture and opera to society as a whole and **offer a wide range of artistic genres at attractive and affordable prices** for all types of audiences, economies and interests.

ACCESSIBLE ABAO. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND SOCIAL PROGRAMME

- **“The ABC of Opera” cycle offers six new lectures on the titles of the new season.**

- **Over three decades of didactic programme regarding opera with more activities carried out inside as well as outside the territory.**
- **The “Opera y +” programme at Cruces University Hospital has completed a decade and continues offering emotional accompaniment with more activities and new groups.**
- **Gazteam ABAO is now well-established amongst young opera aficionados.**

ABAO Bilbao Opera organizes an **extensive cultural and social programme** with **free and accessible activities** open to society as a whole, with the aim to bring opera to all audiences, creating spaces for culture and art.

The “**El ABC de la Ópera**” cycle, with free lectures and lecturers of great renown in the sector, holds a new edition at the **University of Deusto** in collaboration with **DeustoBide**. The participants in this edition are: the journalists **Rafael Bernardo** and **Mariela Rubio**, directors of the programme Play Opera at Cadena SER, the orchestra conductor and composer **Pedro Halffter**, the music critic, editor and writer **Luis Gago**, the musicologist and cultural disseminator **Eva Sandoval** and the renowned journalist and writer **Rubén Amón**.

ABAO’s didactic programme, a pioneering programme in the State, starts the academic year in September in **more than one hundred education centres**, with informative talks and workshops. The Programme is mainly aimed at pres-school, primary and secondary education and includes pedagogical guides for teachers as well as the **school sessions** of the ABAO Txiki season or attendance at performances of the general season in the case of older students.

This activity extends to other **groups of adults** such as the *Aulas de la Experiencia* (classes for seniors) and cultural centres for the elderly both at universities and in collaboration with the councils of different towns and cities of Bizkaia, Gasteiz, Pamplona, Burgos and Santander. The **Senior Programme** includes didactic talks, visits to the theatre and attendance to operas.

The programme “**Ópera y +**”, which seeks to contribute, through opera and side events both inside as well as outside the hospital, to the emotional wellbeing of patients, relatives and healthcare personnel of **Cruces University Hospital** and which started in the areas of Nephrology, Paediatrics and Neonatology, has extended in the latest editions to other services such as the Day Hospital, Inflammatory Bowel Disease Unit, Internal Medicine, Pneumology, Oncology and Radiotherapeutic Oncology. This innovative and inclusive solidarity project starts its **10th edition** in September with the collaboration of **EDP Foundation, “La Caixa” Foundation and Zabalgardi**, which have also included in their organizations a **volunteering plan** for their workers to become acquainted with this social work and the positive connection between culture, music and health.

Likewise, ABAO Bilbao Opera keeps working towards attracting and engaging the younger audiences, with benefits and appeals of different types, such as the programme for young people under 30 **Gazteam ABAO**, with **flat rates of €28 and €33** to go to any opera title or performance in the best seats available.

The **inclusion and social collaboration** programmes and activities aimed at bringing opera and culture to people with diverse capacities or in risk of exclusion continue to develop in collaboration with various third sector organizations and collaborating companies and institutions.

NEW “ABAO BENEFACTOR” FIGURE

- **Programme aimed at both private individuals as well as companies to achieve greater engagement with culture and opera.**

#ABAOleavesaMark

- **Contributions will be considered donations and will provide tax benefits.**
- **Four collaboration modalities starting from €50.**

ABAO Bilbao Opera has created the “**ABAO Benefactor**” programme for their community to be joined by private individuals as well as companies that wish to promote creative talent and protect culture and the future of opera in Bilbao.

The new Benefactor figure was approved in the latest amendment of the Association’s statutes to achieve greater support and engagement from society to culture and opera in Bilbao. The main aim of this programme is to reinforce the Association’s equity and is totally compatible with other sponsorship and patronage programmes.

ABAO Bilbao Opera proposes **four collaboration modalities: Young Benefactor**, for contributions between €50 and €200; **Benefactor** for contributions between €201 and €1,000; Collaborating **Benefactor** for contributions between €2,001 and €2,500; and Protective **Benefactor** for contributions over €2,500.

All contributions will be considered donations and, therefore, will benefit from a **tax deduction of 45%** of the contribution.

This programme has been created with the aim of involving society as a whole in ABAO Bilbao Opera’s growth and expansion, through the active participation of a large community to promote the cultural project as well as opera in Bilbao as an international reference.

Hashtags Social Media: #ABAOBilbaoOpera, #ABAOTxiki, #ABAOleavesaMark

Tags: @ABAOBilbaoOpera, @FBBVA

[DOWNLOAD:](#)

- Photographs and sketches of productions and the main artists
- Promotional trailer 73rd Season