

## COPENHAGEN OPERA FESTIVAL ansøger om støtte til opførelse af *Alan Turing* i samarbejde med Sort/Hvid

### **COPENHAGEN OPERA FESTIVALS VÆRDIER OG VISION**

Copenhagen Opera Festival afholdes årligt i august måned rundt om i København på traditionelle og utraditionelle steder, både udendørs og inde, hvor mange for første gang – og ofte gratis – møder operaens magiske verden. I 2019 fejrede festivalen sit 10-års jubilæum. Festivalen sætter fokus på skabelsen af opera i dag ved at udforske komponister og værker fra hele operaens historie, og ikke mindst ved programlægningen af samtidens operakomponister. Operagenren er et stærkt medie til historiefortælling i samtiden, og dette vil vi, at flere skal opdage. Opera er en vild og fascinerende kunstform, der ofte bliver mødt med misforståelser hos dem, der endnu ikke har oplevet opera. Vi vil befri opera fra fordomme. Copenhagen Opera Festival 2022 afholdes den 19.-27. August, med støtte fra blandt andre Københavns Kommunes Festivalpulje.

*Kulturel dialog og 'opera for alle!' er fundamentet for festivalens planlægning og præsentationer. Copenhagen Opera Festival forsøger at programlægge med høj relevans for mange forskellige målgrupper samtidigt. Og altid med højeste kunstneriske niveau for øje.*

Ved udviklingen og præsentationen af nye værker lægger Copenhagen Opera Festival stor vægt på samfundsaktuelle tematikker. Således har festivalen tidligere bestilt og givet premiere til operaerne *Silent Zone* om incest, og til Jakob Ejersbos litterære klassiker, *Nordkraft* om rusafhængighed, omsat til opera.

LGBTI+-ikonet og videnskabsmanden Alan Turings inspirerede liv og personlige kampe er genstand for den nye opera *Alan Turing Opera Project*, som festivalen glæder sig umådelig til at give danmarkspremiere den 24. august. Under årets Copenhagen Opera Festival spiller forestillingen to gange på teater Sort/Hvid, København V.

### **OM ALAN TURING OG DEN AKTUELLE OPERAFORSTILLING**

I januar 1952 fik Alan Turing valget mellem kemisk kastration eller to års fængselsstraf for "grov uanstændighed", simpelthen fordi han var homoseksuel. Selv som en af de mest geniale videnskabsmænd i sin generation, grundlægger af teoretisk datalogi og kunstig intelligens og medvirkende til at besejre Nazityskland ved at knække deres Enigma-kode, blev Turing tvunget til at kastration. Hans død var forårsaget af cyanidforgiftning ved 41 års-alderen i 1954.

Den interdisciplinære performer og kontratenor [Albert Montañez](#)' originale produktion, *the Alan Turing Opera Project*, blev for første gang opført på Halland Contemporary Opera Festival i 2020, og mødt med stående applaus. Dernæst blev operaen opført i Malmö ifm. World Pride 2021. Musikken

er skrevet af den svenske komponist [Kent Olofsson](#). Forudindspillet lydmateriale og koreografi er en del af værket, som forstærker det musikalske sprog.

Libretto, iscenesættelse og handling beskriver Alan Turings sidste time på jorden. Det er en livsrejse af opdagelser, kærlighed, smerte og skjulte hemmeligheder.

“Albert er den perfekte Turing”, skrev Hallands Opera om Albert Montañez indsats som Alan Turing. “Alan var en visionær, en krigshelt og en modig mand, som kæmpede mod samfundet i en tid, hvor det ikke var accepteret at være sig selv”, siger Albert Montañez.



Først i 2009, altså 57 år efter Alan Turings død, gav Hendes Majestæt dronning Elizabeth en officiel undskyldning. Samme år blev det britiske 50-pundsseddel prydet med Alan Turings navn og ansigt. Han blev til og med hyldet i storfilmene *The Imitation Game* og BBC udnævnte ham til 00ernes vigtigste person.

“Allan Turings arbejde reddede ikke bare millioner af liv under 2. Verdenskrig; han var endda udvikler af kunstig intelligens”, siger Albert Montañez. “Vores liv ville have været anderledes foruden Alan Turing forskning, mod og videnskabelige fremgang”.

## MÅLGRUPPE

Alan Turing blev forfulgt for at være homoseksuel i en tid, hvor det at være åben om sin seksualitet kunne føre til fængsel. Operaen er relevant i dag, ikke kun for at genetablere Alan Turing i vores kollektive hukommelse, men også fordi de institutionaliserede homofobiske holdninger, som Alan Turing stod over for, fortsat truer homoseksuelles liv over hele verden.

Præsentationen af samtidsrelevante operaværker og flere genrekrydsende formater er samtidig festivalens led i at nå førstegangsoveragængere og nye publikummer. *Alan Turing Opera Project* henvender sig til nytilkomne lyttere, nysgerrige kulturforbrugere, men også til operakendere, der vil se opera i nyt format. *Alan Turing Opera Project* rykker ved forståelsen af genren, så den bliver nutidig og relevant for både det operavante og det nye publikum.

Alan Turing havde et unikt perspektiv på universet, et ufortrødne syn på sin homoseksualitet og enorm indflydelse på civilisationens fremtid. Vi håber, at en bred gruppe af tilhørere vil opleve forestillingen.

Forventet publikumsantal er ca. 240.

## Om produktionen:

Længde: 60 minutter

Stemme: Kontratenor

Musik er indspillet i Inter Arts Center i Malmø, februar 2020.

## Kunstnerisk hold:

Idé, producent, kunstnerisk leder og performer: Albert Montañez

Musik: Kent Olofsson

Video: Jörgen Dahlgvist

Scenografi: Daniel Back

Fotografi: Malin Arnesson

## Følgende bilag er vedlagt nedenfor:

- Interview om *Alan Turing Opera Project* med Albert Montañez og Kent Olofsson

Copenhagen Opera Festival står naturligvis til rådighed for Scenekunstudvalget for evt. spørgsmål.

Med venlige hilsner,



Rikke Frisk, Chefproducent



Photos : Malin Arnesson

**Alan Turing Opera Project : Original Idea by Albert Montanez , Music by Kent Olofsson**

# Interview by Pedro Pizano - Journalist , New York City - USA

- ***How and why did you come up with the idea of a multimedia performance about Alan Turing?***

**ALBERT:** Alan's story inspired me on many levels. Alan was a visionary, a war hero, and a brave man that fought society in a time where being who you are wasn't allowed. Alan Turing's tragic death needed to be told from an operatic perspective as it is the perfect opera story. Alan was obsessed with the idea of machines thinking so, I thought ... why not write a multimedia opera show that is musically created only with machines and computers and live-singing with a countertenor sound as a lead, which follows the English musical tradition. I did a lot of research reading about his personal life and the letters he wrote to many important people in his life, but also letters found at the University of Manchester where he taught for years until his death. I traveled to Manchester to see them in person, it was so exciting to have those letters in my hands, read them and know what he had in his mind at that time.

- ***Why is it important that you're presenting it at World Pride 2021?***

**ALBERT:** I think it is important to portrait the stories of LGBTI+ icons during this important celebration, which is about diversity and inclusiveness. Alan's life and death gave all of us a new way of living, and what a great way to celebrate his accomplishments by presenting to the public his story in the most important celebration for the LGBTI+ community in the world. I feel privileged and excited that World Pride is happening in Copenhagen / Malmö, which is like home for me and I have been given the chance to show my work. Kent Olofsson, who wrote the music score is also a local artist. We are very excited that people will be able to see it in person at Palladium in Malmö but also online via Livestream.

- ***What is it about Alan Turing's last hour of life that is important for you and us to understand?***

**ALBERT:** The show is about Alan's struggles between his work and personal life, which we all can relate to. In his case, his struggle was monumental. By sacrificing his own life as a gay man to be able to continue with his work. Undergoing chemical castration in order to continue his research is a great example of dedication and perseverance. In addition, I wanted to show his struggle as a human being. The struggle we all go through when we love and lose someone, when we are rejected or when things don't go as planned. Alan was a genius but he was a man with needs and desires like any of us and setting up the story in his last hour of life will give us a peek of what we really are in the intimacy of our bedrooms. I wanted him to be seen as a relatable character.

- ***How did you draw your inspiration from both Alan Turing's theoretical work on computers and artificial intelligence and how did you incorporate it into the libretto, the music composition process and the production design?***

**KENT:** Albert and I had multiple conversations for 2 years before we started working full-time on the project. We shared ideas about music that inspire us as well as some of the original letters Turing himself wrote. My idea from the beginning was to compose and combine the countertenor voice with the kind of electroacoustic music I've done before by exploring with machines and computer sounds to create a musical landscape that will recreate Turing's world. I wanted to build Alan's last night: what was going on in his mind, the memories, the love, the struggles, the research ... through leitmotifs that repeat in different parts of the opera. Albert wrote 3 original letters to complement the original letters written by Turing to unify the story. He also designed the scenography as a metaphor for Alan's complex mind by creating a hermetic box that opens at the end of the opera when Alan's tension is released. All were connected to the idea of sleep deprivation. The things we do when we don't sleep hahaha.

- ***This role was created specifically for Albert as a counter-tenor. Please tell us more about it.***

**KENT:** I have done a piece for ensemble and countertenor before which premiered in Stockholm. So I wanted to keep writing music for the countertenor voice and by serendipity, I met Albert and we started to work together. Albert's voice has a large extension and multiple voice colors that I found very interesting. The countertenor voice provides different possibilities that other types of voices offer. I wanted to explore this idea in order to write the score and the sound landscape I had in mind.

- ***As a counter-tenor, how does your timbre inform the performance?***

**ALBERT:** Well, it is hard to say but most people haven't heard a countertenor singing live , so I invite the audience to come and see it in person so they can draw their own opinions and conclusions. It is an experience on its own ... come and check it out.

- ***Anything else you want to share about yourself, Alan Turing or the Alan Turing Opera Project?***

**ALBERT:** The show was created and designed in 2019. It was intended to be with a small audience and me singing locked in a cube, so it is COVID friendly ... I think we got that right ... it was a vision of the future or as Alan once said: " This is only a foretaste of what is to come, and only the shadow of what is going to be ... "

Congrats and best of luck in the performance and recording on Aug. 17-18, 2021 at Palladium in Malmö.