

The Baltic Contemporary Opera Network initiates international co-productions and creative residencies.

Founded in 2024, the Baltic Contemporary Opera Network (BCON) focused on getting to know each other during its first year. Four meetings in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia brought together creators, producers, art critics and analysts interested in contemporary opera. After getting to know the contemporary opera field in each country and establishing contacts, the network's activities are now moving forward, with a series of residencies planned for 2025-2027 where it is hoped to bring together international teams of creators to discover and clarify ideas for future works, and to conclude the second phase of the project with the premieres of new works of contemporary music theatre.

The first BCON residency will take place from 18 to 23 August 2025 at the Sansusī residency space right after the Sansusī Alternative Chamber Music Festival in Aknīste, Latvia. Artists from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are invited to participate in the residency and meet Baltic colleagues who are interested in contemporary opera. They will have the opportunity to discover and develop new ideas together, which may lead to the creation of new operas. There is no age limit. The organisers will arrange and cover the cost of travel, accommodation and meals, and will provide the necessary tools for creative work.

Candidates interested in participating in the residency are invited to fill in the application form, which will be available until 6 June 2025. Five artists from each country (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia), representing different fields of art, will be invited to participate in the residency in Latvia.

Other residencies are already planned for 2026 in Estonia (Tallinn) and Lithuania (Klaipėda), 2027 in Latvia (Liepāja), etc. New artists will be selected for each residency, but some participants from previous residencies may be invited to further develop their creative ideas.

The Baltic Contemporary Opera Network was initiated and implemented by the non-governmental organisations Operomanija (Lithuania), Sansusī and Ģertrūdes ielas Theatre (Latvia), and New Opera (Estonia). BCON is also supported by all Baltic composers' unions. In Lithuania, the Klaipėda State Musical Theatre has become a partner, while in Estonia, the Estonian Centre for Contemporary Music (ECCM) and Estonian Music Days have also supported the network. In Latvia, the Lielais Dzintars Concert Hall in Liepāja will host one of the BCON residencies. Other Baltic performing arts institutions are interested in the network's activities and are looking forward to seeing the results and creative ideas that come out of the residencies.

The three-year Baltic Contemporary Opera Network residency programme, which is co-funded by the Nordic-Baltic Mobility program for Culture, will conclude in 2027 with the world premieres of two contemporary opera productions from the Baltic region.

Please complete the form in English: <https://forms.gle/FDGqqjnlarnbL8Ns6>

If you require further information, please contact us at:

- info@operomanija.lt, tel. +370 616 30 814 (Operomanija, Lithuania)
- BCON@git.lv, tel. +371 29729188 (Sansusī, GIT, Latvia)
- bcon.estonia@gmail.com (New Opera, Estonia)