

Stiftelsen Tom Wilhelmsen Opera & Ballett Prize 2018:

Norway has a prolific past in the international vocal arena by having been able to contribute singers of the highest caliber. Today we again can be pleased to have a core of classical singers who are in the process of establishing themselves throughout Europe and the rest of the world and reminding music lovers of our heritage and our contribution. For this to happen, a great musical and scenic talent is not enough, nor is a rich voice. No one can do this alone. It is crucial to have a place to go where you can get help and guidance in rehearsing new parts from a confident, knowledgeable person with deep insight into repertoire, musical style, language, performance practice, vocal technique and voice diagnostics.

The person within Norwegian music life who possesses this necessary knowledge is called John Lidal. He manages it with wisdom, enthusiasm and great perseverance. John is the one, so to speak, that all our top singers go to when it comes to learning new roles, maintenance of the voice and further development. John is the organizer of opera workshops and courses where singers at various levels have the opportunity to try out new roles under professional guidance. Through these ventures many young singers have been able to gain an understanding of what the profession of a singer entails and what constitutes good singing in general. Without clear references, we know little about what we are doing and where we stand. This is how John is important to singers and those interested in singing, at all levels.

In particular, he is valuable for talents who really want to take it to the next level. They find in John a clear guide, a sparring partner, a challenger and an inspirer – a safe place where you can try and fail surrounded by the safety net of knowledge. John's daily work is at Den Norske Opera & Ballett. He regularly works one-on-one with the singers associated with our National Opera.

The Tom Wilhelmsen Foundation's Opera and Ballet prize is thus awarded, at the celebration of the Prize's 10th anniversary, to the person who has been a close collaborator with all the Prize's previous winners on the opera side - invisible to the audience, but always intensely present in the artistic performance on stage and podium! John Lidal makes a difference to the art form Opera in our country.



*Wilhelm Wilhelmsen, Helen Juell,
Asbjørn Larsen, Ellen Horn,
Ellen Kjellberg og Anne Gjevjang*