

Ivan van Kalmthout complete CV

Ivan van Kalmthout is the Artistic Director of the Teatro Nacional de Sao Carlos since 1 July 2023. During his tenure the company will have to leave the opera house (starting in June 2024) for extensive renovations, providing opportunities for the chorus, orchestra and soloists of the Teatro Nacional to connect with new publics across Portugal and beyond.

It is Ivan van Kalmthout's ambition to present seasons that attract audiences that may not immediately be drawn to all the beauty that musical theatre has to offer, by creating overarching story lines and helping them experience the broad range of emotions that all good operas have in them.

Ivan van Kalmthout studied the violin and was drawn to the world of opera as a young teenager and always envisioned a role for himself in the wings of the theatre. He studied at the Nyenrode Business School in the Netherlands with the intention of acquiring management skills to equip him to work in artistic administration.

For the last 6 years Mr van Kalmthout has led the International Vocal Competition in 's-Hertogenbosch (Netherlands) which has existed since 1954 and whose prizewinners include artists of the stature of Thomas Hampson, Dame Sarah Connolly, Pretty Yende, Josh Lovell and Lenneke Ruiten. He was twice a member himself of the jury of that illustrious competition and has also served as a jury member of the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow in 2002, the 2nd China International Singing Competition in the same year and in the Bulbul Opera competition in Baku (Azerbaijan) in 2010 and in the Marie Kraja International Singing Competition in Tirana (Albania) 2022. He has a broad range of experience in leading opera houses all over Europe. He was interim artistic director of the Liceu opera house in Barcelona (and before that for 10 years the adjunct artistic director). This experience brought him an enormous depth in his knowledge of repertoire, singers, conductors and directors. He worked as Operndirektor in the Staatsoper Unter den Linden im Schillertheater in Berlin. He was responsible for daily operations and emergencies as Leiter des künstlerischen Betriebsbüros in Hamburg, which provided him with the skills to solve any substantial unforeseen problem in a minimum of time. In both latter houses he was closely involved with the two opera studios for younger artists that formed part of the ensemble. He started his career with the Vlaamse Opera in Antwerpen / Ghent where his last position was casting officer. Before that he worked as a trainee at the Pieter Alferink agency, the leading Dutch opera agency at that time.