
Opéra national
de Nancy ◦ Lorraine
CAROUSEL

Making Opera child's play

Carousel is an opera carousel designed by the Opéra national de Nancy-Lorraine for children aged 4 to 10. At each performance, 25 children take their places on the carousel and revolve close to the performers (singers and an acrobat) for around twenty minutes.

Designed to travel, the structure can be set up indoors or outdoors: in an opera house, a schoolyard, a park or a public square. This mobility enables the Opera to present the show in a wide range of venues and to meet children and families where they live.

WATCH THE TEASER

Duration 20 minutes
Up to 6 performances per day
Maximum capacity: 25 children per ride
Ages 4 to 10

Touring production

Co-produced with
Jarville-la-Malgrange
Wiener Staatsoper

With the support of
La Ville de Nancy– Mieux produire pour mieux diffuser
Association Des'Lices d'Opéra

Crédit Agricole de Lorraine
Hall du Livre de Nancy
Mr. and Mrs. Pasi, Lalo and Doré

Cast and creative team

Concept and direction: Anna Bernreitner
Costumes and set design collaboration: Hannah Oellinger
1 soprano, 1 mezzo-soprano
1 acrobat
6 musicians (1 violin, 1 cello, 1 double bass, 1 flute, 1 clarinet, percussion)









Origins of the project

A story that began with *Opéra Berceau*

Carousel grew out of an experience developed over more than five years with *Opéra Berceau*, a carousel show for children aged 6 months to 3 years, whose performances sell out several weeks in advance.

Since it was created in 2021, *Opéra Berceau* has given more than 60 performances and welcomed over 3,400 spectators, including young children and adults. Performances sell out every season. In 2024–2025, the show was presented at the Opéra national du Rhin in Strasbourg. At La Petite Foire in October 2025, ten performances welcomed 500 spectators, including 200 children.

Carousel launched on 12 and 13 September 2025 in Jarville-la-Malgrange, the project's first co-producing town. The two days welcomed 552 participants. In October 2025, the carousel was installed at the Opéra national de Nancy-Lorraine for La Petite Foire. Thirty rides were offered; 750 children rode the carousel, and 1,500 to 1,600 spectators attended the performances.

After Jarville-la-Malgrange and Nancy, the show is expanding its reach. The Opéra de Dijon will soon welcome it. In September 2026, the Wiener Staatsoper's NEST presented it over 13 dates and 39 rides; the Vienna performances found an audience within days. Other local authorities and institutions have also expressed interest.



Designing from a child's perspective

Carousel brings together a lyrical performance, a physical experience and a familiar object from childhood: the carousel.

The design of *Carousel* starts from the concrete conditions in which a child aged 4 to 10 encounters a performance.

• A short duration: Each performance lasts around 20 minutes.

• A small audience capacity: A maximum of 25 children ride the carousel at a time. Parents and accompanying adults can also watch the show from around it.

• Performers up close: The children take their places on the carousel. The performers (two singers, six musicians and an acrobat) share the same space as the children, disappearing and reappearing in their field of vision as the carousel moves. The connection with the music and performers is direct.

• Movement at the heart of the experience: The children revolve around the instrumentalists and singers. Their viewpoint changes throughout the performance.

• An immediately accessible world: The carousel is familiar to children and families. It becomes a way to introduce them to works from the operatic repertoire.

• The repertoire as a starting point: The show is adapted to the children's age, while keeping the repertoire at its heart. During the rides in the first edition, the music included Olympia's aria, Kleinzach, the Barcarolle and then the Can-Can.

Musical program

Jacques Offenbach

Olympia's Aria, *The Tales of Hoffmann*
Kleinzach, *The Tales of Hoffmann*
Can-Can, *Orpheus in the Underworld*
Beautiful Night, Barcarolle



Technical requirements

SETUP

• A flat surface measuring 10 m x 10 m, with a minimum height of 6 m (for the carousel)
• A nearby area for the musicians' platform and the operator's booth, as well as sufficient width for circulation and audience chairs (approximate total area: 12 m x 19 m). The venue must provide sufficiently clear passageways for the evacuation of the audience.
• Floor load-bearing capacity: 350 kg/m²
• Nearby parking for a "City" truck (to unload the set)
• One chair for the operator
• The venue must provide a floor plan and the dimensions of the access doors through which the set must pass

ELECTRICITY / LIGHTING

• 4 single-phase 16 A + earth electrical connections

SAFETY / FIRE

• Suitable barriers depending on the venue
• The organiser is responsible for the safety of the equipment
• CO2 and water-spray fire extinguishers
• In venues requiring an M1-rated set, a trained team member and additional water extinguishers must be present during performances, in accordance with the safety commission's requirements
• First-aid kit

PRODUCTION / STAGE MANAGEMENT

• 2 dressing rooms (water, electricity, chairs, table, mirror) for the 2 singers and the acrobat
• 1 large dressing room (tables and chairs) for the musicians
• Toilets

COSTUMES / MAKE-UP

• 3 dressing rooms
• A water supply in or near each dressing room
• One clothes rail per dressing room
• 1 electrical panel for connecting the 16 mm² earth cable
• One table, chair and mirror per dressing room

Further details can be found in the production's technical rider.

Financial information

A format tailored to your needs:

- **Performance contract with our artistic team:**

1 date, 6 performances = €10,700 excl. VAT (includes fees for the singers, musicians and acrobat, travel and expenses, royalties, 1 technician for set-up, performances and dismantling, and technical costs)
= €8,900 excl. VAT (without our musicians)

2 dates, 12 performances = €15,700 excl. VAT (includes fees for the singers, musicians and acrobat, travel and expenses, royalties, 1 technician for set-up, performances and dismantling, and technical costs)
= €12,100 excl. VAT (without our musicians)

To be provided by the producer: front-of-house staff and set-up/dismantling staff

- **Rental contract for set, costumes and props only, without performers:**

€2,500 per day + loading costs + transport costs

- **ALL-IN show sales contract (ticketing managed according to agreement):**

1 date, 6 performances = €13,100 excl. VAT
2 dates, 12 performances = €19,100 excl. VAT

+ Additional costs may apply depending on travel time for transport outside Nancy metropolitan area.



CONTACTS

Matthieu Dussouillez
General and Artistic Director
matthieu.dussouillez@opera-nancy.fr

Julien Achaintre
Technical and Production Director
julien.achaintre@opera-nancy.fr