



I wish you a fascinating visit to the Margravia Opera House Bayreuth!

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The stage with the reconstructed stage set

The Margravia Opera House – a monument of Baroque festival culture

The Margravia Opera House is the best preserved example of a free-standing Baroque court theatre. It was modelled on the greatest opera houses of the time in Vienna and Dresden. As a unique monument of 18th-century festival and music culture it was inscribed by UNESCO in the list of World Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2012.

A special patron: Wilhelmine of Bayreuth

The driving force behind this exceptional project was Margravine Wilhelmine of Brandenburg-Bayreuth (1709–1758). The Prussian king's daughter and favourite sister of Frederick the Great chose opera as the most important arena for enhancing the image of the court. She was highly gifted in all the arts, wrote libretti and composed and engaged an ensemble of Italian singers

Margravine Wilhelmine of Bayreuth in pilgrim costume, Antoine Pesne, c. 1750



at the Bayreuth Court. The theatre was built for the lavish festivities surrounding the wedding of the Bayreuth princess Elisabeth Friederike Sophie and Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg in September 1748. The wedding was celebrated with the performance of two Italian operas, banquets and theatre performances in the newly built opera house.

A special architect: Giuseppe Galli Bibiena

The architect appointed to design the new opera house was the leading theatre architect of the day, the Italian Giuseppe Galli Bibiena who had been working for the Viennese imperial court. His son Carlo Galli Bibiena was responsible for the project in Bayreuth and stayed on at the court until the death of the Margravine, creating numerous stage set designs and festival decorations for the Margravia Opera House. The reconstructed Baroque stage set currently on display was modelled on a design by him. The front building and façade were only finished two years after the inauguration in 1748, and are the work of the Bayreuth court architect Joseph Saint-Pierre.

The façade of the Margravia Opera House is the work of the Bayreuth court architect Joseph Saint-Pierre



Carved head with flower basket above a loge in the first tier

MARGRAVIAL OPERA HOUSE BAYREUTH

Opernstraße 14
95444 Bayreuth
Tel. 0921 75969-22
www.bayreuth-wilhelmine.de

INFORMATION

Schloss- und Gartenverwaltung Bayreuth-Eremitage
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95444 Bayreuth
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Fax 0921 75969-15
sgvbayreuth@bsv.bayern.de

OPENING TIMES

April–September: 9am–6pm
October–March: 10am–4pm

The opera house may be closed temporarily due to event rehearsals.

There are **multimedia shows at fixed times** (every 45 minutes). Visitors are able to look round the opera house on their own afterwards until the next show.

**Closed on 1 January, Shrove Tuesday,
24, 25 and 31 December**

♿ Accessible for wheelchairs;
municipal parking spaces for the disabled
(Wölfelstr.; Münzgasse)

TRANSPORT

Train to Bayreuth;
Bus to 'Luitpoldplatz',
Parking facilities in the centre of Bayreuth can be found at
www.bayreuth.de

 Bayerische Verwaltung der
staatlichen Schlösser, Gärten und Seen

Postfach 20 20 63 · 80020 München
info@bsv.bayern.de · www.schloesser.bayern.de



Interior of the Margravial Opera House ...

The auditorium – an architectural masterpiece in wood and canvas

The Margravial Opera House is modelled on Italian loge theatres of the period. The fully preserved tiers of loges made primarily of wood and canvas are installed as a free-standing construction within the stone exterior. The auditorium and stage form a single unit. The large stage portal framed by columns at the rear of the auditorium faces the court loge. The sculptures decorating the loge, like those above the stage, glorify the Hohenzollern dynasty and the founders of the theatre, Margrave Friedrich and Margravine Wilhelmine of Brandenburg-Bayreuth.

Coat of arms cartouche with the heraldic Brandenburg eagle and the Prussian royal crown



... looking towards the court loge

Baroque illusionist art – the painting and its restoration

The interior of the theatre was constructed in record time with some of the wooden architectural elements and sculptures prefabricated and painted elsewhere. Under the direction of the architects Giuseppe and Carlo Galli Bibiena, a masterpiece of ephemeral festival architecture was completed in 1748 in under four years. The restoration that took place from 2013 to 2018 re-established the original light and airy atmosphere of the illusionist painting in the auditorium with its overwhelming three-dimensional effect. The sustainable restoration work carried out on the opera house has now enduringly preserved the illusionist art of the Baroque age for future generations as well.

Illusionistic painting: Panel decorated with putti and a flower vase below the ceiling



Margravial Opera House Bayreuth

