



Dates

30 MAY 1861

Charles Garnier wins the architecture competition to build the new Opera house.

21 JULY 1862

The cornerstone is laid.

1870-1871

Building work is interrupted during the Franco-Prussian War and the siege of Paris; the new Opera house is turned into a warehouse.

5 JANUARY 1875

The theatre is inaugurated.

1 JANUARY 1887

Electric lighting replaces gas throughout the Palais Garnier.

16 OCTOBER 1923

The Opera house is listed as a historic monument.

1925-1932

The main façade is restored.

1950-1953

The Loggia is restored.

23 SEPTEMBER 1964

The ceiling by Marc Chagall (1887-1985) is inaugurated.

1971

The technical equipment of the stage is updated.

1994-1996

The auditorium and stage house are restored.

2000

The main façade is restored.

2003-2004

The Grand Foyer is restored.

2011-2014

The west façade and Rotonde des Abonnés are restored.

2015

The north and the est façade are restored.

DIMENSIONS OF THE BUILDING

Length 173m; width 125m; area 11 237m².

The statue of Apollo playing the lyre stands atop the theatre's apex 73.60m above ground level.

DIMENSIONS OF THE STAGE

Depth 27m; total width 48.5m; width of the stage opening 16m; total height of the auditorium from floor to ceiling, 60m; area 1200m²
Number of seats: 2 081.

a wider view can be enjoyed from the Loggia. The *Salon du Soleil* and *Salon de la Lune* offer a symbolic and poetic transition to the other spaces.

BIBLIOTHÈQUE-MUSÉE DE L'OPÉRA

The collections of the *Bibliothèque-musée de l'Opéra* (Bibliothèque nationale de France) preserve three centuries of the theatre's memories. The museum has a permanent exhibition of paintings, drawings, photographs and three-dimensional models of sets. After the fall of the Empire, the rooms were never fully completed: the massive blocks of stone masonry in the staircase leading to the temporary exhibition room still look as they did in 1870. Access to the reading room, located in the *Rotonde de l'Empereur*, is reserved for researchers.

GALERIE DE L'ORCHESTRE, GRAND VESTIBULE

The *galerie de l'orchestre* offers a last look at the *Palais Garnier* and has an audiovisual display about its history. The statues of four composers — Rameau, Lulli, Gluck and Haendel — stand in the *grand vestibule*, which leads to the exit.

Information/services

www.operadeparis.fr

VISITS +33 (0)8 92 89 90 90
(Audio-guide service)

GUIDED TOURS +33 (0)8 25 05 44 05

BACKSTAGE TOUR 01 40 01 24 60

LA GALERIE DE L'OPÉRA

(bookshop-giftshop) is open every day from 10am to 6:30pm and until the end of the performance on nights when one is taking place.

L'OPÉRA RESTAURANT

is open from 8am to midnight (last service).
Booking: +33 (0)1 42 68 86 80
www.opera-restaurant.fr



BACKSTAGE TOUR OF THE OPERA BASTILLE

www.operadeparis.fr



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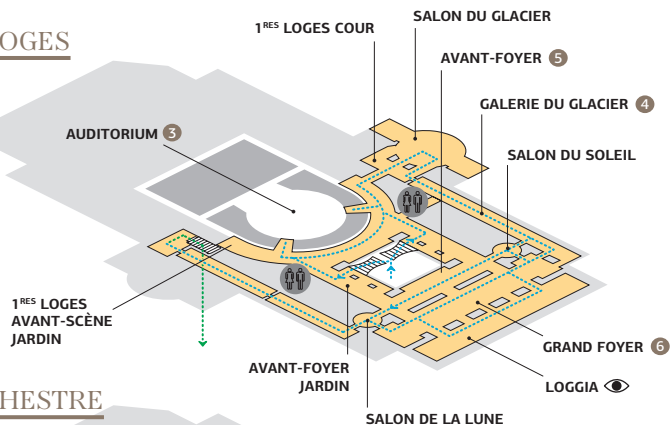
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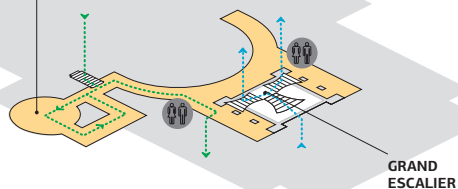
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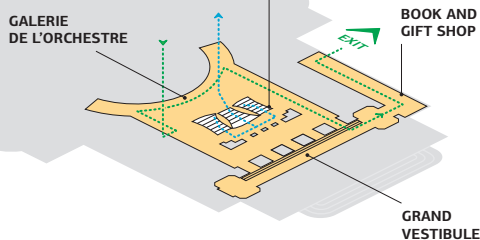
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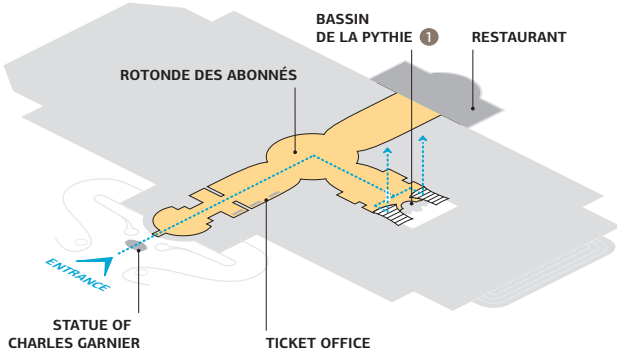


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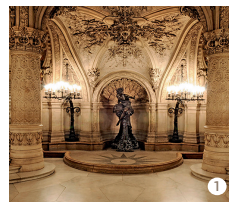
GRAND ESCALIER 2



GROUND FLOOR



At the request of Napoleon III, in 1861 Charles Garnier undertook the building of a “new Opera house” in the haussmannian Paris of the late Second Empire. inaugurated under the Third Republic, on 5 January 1875, the edifice bedazzled contemporaries with the opulence and eclecticism of Garnier’s bold architectural and decorative scheme. His masterpiece instantly became the model for the Italian-style theatre. functional and flamboyant at the same time, the *Palais Garnier* is considered one of the world’s most beautiful theatres.



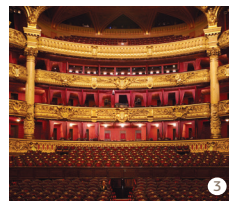
BASSIN DE LA PYTHIE, GRAND ESCALIER

After crossing the Rotonde des Abonnés, the *Bassin de la Pythie* ① leads to the lavish, 30-metre-high nave of multicoloured marble, which houses the double *Grand Escalier* ② leading to the Foyers and various levels of the auditorium. At the bottom of the staircase, a veritable theatre in the theatre, two female allegories holding bouquets of light welcome visitors.



THE AUDITORIUM

In the tradition of Italian-style theatres, the horseshoe-shaped, French-style *auditorium* ③ and its seating layout based on category were designed to see and be seen. The metallic structure, masked by marble, stucco, velvet and gilt, supports the eight-ton, 340-light bronze and crystal chandelier. The painters-theatre decorators Auguste Rubé (1817-1899) and Philippe Chaperon (1823-1906) made the stage curtain following Garnier’s instructions. It was replaced by an exact replica twice, in 1951 and 1996. Marc Chagall’s ceiling was inaugurated on 23 September 1964.



SALON DU GLACIER AND FOYERS

The *Salon du Glacier* ④, a cool, bright rotunda, is at the end of a long gallery. Clairin (1843-1919) painted the round of bacchantes and fauns on the ceiling, Tapestry cartoons illustrating various refreshments as well as hunting and fishing scenes round out the decoration. Completed after the *Palais Garnier* opened, this room is a splendid example of Belle Époque aesthetics.



Mosaics with shimmering colours on a gold background cover the ceiling of the *Avant-Foyer* ⑤, which has a stunning view of the *Grand Escalier*’s nave. The play of mirrors and windows in the *Grand Foyer* ⑥ makes this huge space look even bigger than it really is. Paul Baudry (1828-1886) painted the ceiling, which features themes from the history of music. The main element is the lyre: it dominates the entire decorative vocabulary, from the capitals to the heating grates to the doorknobs. A copy of Garnier’s bust by the sculptor Carpeaux (1827-1875) stands in the centre of the *Foyer* near one of the windows, which overlooks the perspective down the Avenue de l’Opéra all the way to the Louvre;

