

Mikael Karlsson

Short biography

Mikael Karlsson is a Swedish composer based in Stockholm. He writes music for opera, dance, theater and the concert hall, often bringing acoustic ensembles together with live electronics and multichannel sound.

His operas include *Melancholia* (Royal Swedish Opera, 2023) and *Fanny and Alexander* (La Monnaie, 2024), both with librettist Royce Vavrek, and *The Echo Drift* (PROTOTYPE Festival, 2018). His long collaboration with Alexander Ekman includes *Play*, *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hammer* and *A Swan Lake*. Other collaborators include Mari Carrasco, Jess and Morgs, Anna von Hausswolff and Michael P. Atkinson, with whom he co-composed *Coppelia* and *Mary, Queen of Scots* for Scottish Ballet.

Recent work includes *Arena* for the Paris Opera Ballet (2026) and *Grand Guignol* with Anna von Hausswolff (2025). Forthcoming projects include *Prey* for Dutch National Ballet, *The Grand Dance* for Skånes Dansteater and Barcelona, *Map of Shadows* with Mallory Catlett, planned for NYU Skirball in fall 2027.

His distinctions include the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Wladimir and Rhoda Lakond Award (2014) and Otto and Catherine Brunson Luening Award (2025), a Civitella Ranieri Fellowship (2025), and the EBU-IMZ Outstanding Achievement Award with Alexander Ekman (2023). He returned to Sweden in 2026 after living in New York since 2000.