

Athelas Sinfonietta - to whom it may concern

I understand that the outstanding ensemble Athelas Sinfonietta Copenhagen is under threat of closure, due to cuts and reductions in secure funding.

As the Artistic Director of the Copenhagen Opera Festival, I have had the pleasure of working with Athelas for many years now, and for the past year, we have also shared an office space with the administration staff, allowing us to become even closer in our collaborations, active thinking and planning.

The musicians that form this ensemble are creative, daring, brilliant and highly skilled, both as ensemble players and as solo performers. They are artists who dare to take the craft of performance to new zones, spaces and elevate the experience of attendance for so many people.

Athelas have performed with the Copenhagen Opera Festival on many occasions, including the Reumert nominated Den Sidste Olie (which took place in an Ice Skating Rink) and the Reumert Winner, Lisbon Floor. In 2023, Athelas and COF entered into a strategic partnership covering the years of 2024-2026 with the aim of allowing us to work with long-term planning, presenting new, ground-breaking and vibrant opera productions which would both enhance and inspire the genre, simultaneously allowing our organisations to grow alongside and to learn from each other.

3 new productions are already in incubation for presentation in the coming years.

If we were to lose Athelas, if Copenhagen, Denmark, Scandinavia and beyond were to lose Athelas, it would be like cutting off a major blood vessel, and collectively as consumers and producers of Art, we would lose out significantly on productivity and variety in our musical lives.

I therefore implore the Minister of Culture to see what can be offered as a life-line to these outstanding musicians, in order to ensure that their music making will continue to flow, generate and re-generate as it should.

Yours sincerely,
Amy Lane