

OPERA

MAGYAR ÁLLAMI OPERAHÁZ
HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA

FAUST
225

20
14
15

FAUST225 FESTIVAL



May celebration

Similar to 2014 when the Strauss150 Festival crowned our 130th season, the Faust225 Festival aims to present the most concentrated event of this season on the 225th anniversary of the first publication of Goethe's *Faust – A Fragment*. Five brilliant pieces built on the topic of Faust can be heard (among them the premiere of Gounod's opera and the Hungarian premiere of Busoni's work), with a rarity concert by the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra to conclude the series that spans over two weeks featuring world-wide acclaimed Hungarian singers and international guest stars. All the performances of the series that could be dubbed as "Devil's Festival" for the eternal interdependence of Faust and Mephisto can be seen at the Opera House.

Premieres
in 2014/15

FAUST 225 FESTIVAL

Charles Gounod

Faust

Opera in three acts

Conductor | **Maurizio Benini**

Set designer | **Luigi Scoglio**

Costume designer | **Ana Ramos Aguayo**

Director | **Michał Znaniecki**

Cast ▶ **Dario Schmunk, Gábor Bretz, Andrea Rost, Zsolt Haja,
Lajos Geiger, Szilvia Vörös, Bernadett Wiedemann**

Many composers have been “tempted” by the Devil in the past 250 years but the most outstanding operatic adaptation is Gounod’s French grand opera, which is based on Goethe’s *Faust – The First Part of the Tragedy*. Romanticism, elements of horror and gothic motifs add a taste to this perfumed, smoky drama, a story of romance, temptation, and the eternal fight between religion and satanic forces. Our 2015 production introduces the May celebration festival of our Faust season.

17, 19, 21, 23, 26, 31 MAY 2015 OPERA HOUSE

Igor Stravinsky

The Rake's Progress

Opera in three acts

Conductor | **Erik Nielsen**
Dramaturg | **Judit Kenesey**
Visual design | **Gergely Zöldy Z**
Director | **Ferenc Anger**

Cast: **András Palerdi, Eleanor Lyons, Péter Balczó, Péter Kálmán,
Dávid Szigetvári**

What makes us happy? What desires do we have? What price do we have to pay? Tom Rakewell sells his soul to the Devil unwittingly. Eventually he gets disgusted by his pleasure-seeking lifestyle, he goes crazy and gets into a madhouse. The rake's progress is a downfall with a game of cards at the end with his salvation at stake. It is a reversed evolution, a parable about the loss of innocence. Part black comedy, part obituary.

**16, 20 MAY 2015 OPERA HOUSE
(PREMIERE: 18 JANUARY)**

Carl Maria von Weber

Der Freischütz

Opera in three acts

Conductor | Péter Halász

Dramaturg | Júlia Ungár

Set designer | Mária Ambrus

Costume designer | Mari Benedek

Director | Sándor Zsótér

Cast ▶ István Rácz, Beatrix Fodor, Rita Rácz, Krisztián Cser,
Attila Fekete, István Berczelly, Péter Kiss

The Book of Ghosts opens and magic bullets roll out of it. They roll through the mysterious forests of Bohemia until they reach the Wolf's Glen. A milky light from the Moon falls onto the grass, drops of blood twinkle on the spider's web. Gruesome things are about to happen. The normal way of the huntsmen is disturbed by demonic forces. The hunter's bride gets a funeral wreath. Beater and victim, Good and Evil negotiate and fight with each other until the white dove flies. A romantic thriller. The beginning of something completely new.

27, 29 MAY 2015 OPERA HOUSE
(PREMIERE: 14 DECEMBER 2014)

FAUST 225 FESTIVAL

Ferruccio Benvenuto Busoni

Doktor Faust

*Hungarian premiere
Semi-staged performance*

Conductor | **Gergely Vajda**
Revised version | **Sir Adrian Boult, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau**
Director | **Máté Szabó**

The play tells the tragic tale of the most famous scientist of world literature in two prologues, an intermezzo and three scenes. The folk are singing the Credo at the dawn of Easter while Faust signs the contract with Mephistopheles in his own blood. He first seduces Gretchen, then the Duchess of Parma. He conjures Biblical figures, is responsible for the death of a soldier, he abandons the Duchess and their child, and he sees Helen of Troy emerge from the flames. Faust closes the book of magic. He should say a prayer but no words come to his lips. Is one good deed enough to receive absolution? There is still a little time left until midnight...

22, 24 MAY 2014 OPERA HOUSE

Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra concert

Robert Schumann

Szenen aus Goethes Faust

Scenes from Goethe's Faust

Conductor | **Michael Schönwandt**

Featuring ► **Jörg Schneider** – tenor, **Péter Fried** – bass,
Jochen Kupfer – bariton, the **Hungarian State Opera Choir**
(Choirmaster: **Máté Szabó Sipos**), the **Hungarian State Opera Children's Choir** (Choirmaster: **Gyöngyvér Gupcsó**)

1 JUNE 2015 OPERA HOUSE

From the repertoire:

Arrigo Boito

Mefistofele

Opera in three acts

Conductor | **Carlo Montanaro**
Choreography | **Marianna Venekei**
Set designer | **Csaba Antal**
Costume designer | **Mari Benedek**
Director | **Balázs Kovalik**

Cast ► **András Palerdi, Gabriella Létay Kiss, Dániel Vadász, Erika Markovics**

"The greatest of mysteries is not that coincidence threw man somewhere in the middle of the material and the cosmos of stars, but the fact that in this confinement we have aroused ideas in our minds which are grand enough to question that our life is nothing."

(Béla Hamvas)

28, 30 MAY 2015 OPERA HOUSE

Programme of the Faust225 Festival

Gounod

Faust

(17, 19, 21, 23, 26, 31 May) Conductor ► Maurizio Benini

Stravinsky

The Rake's Progress

(16, 20 May) Conductor ► Erik Nielsen

Busoni

Doktor Faust

(22, 24 May) Conductor ► Gergely Vajda

Weber

Der Freischütz

(27, 29 May) Conductor ► Péter Halász

Boito

Mefistofele

(28, 30 May) Conductor ► Carlo Montanaro

Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra Concert

Schumann

Szenen aus Goethes Faust

(1 June) Conductor ► Michael Schönwandt

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15