

OPERA
MÁGYAR ÁLLAMI OPERAHÁZ
HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA

Slavic²³
Season²⁴



SEASON PREVIEW

EIFFEL
EIFFEL MŰHELYHÁZ
EIFFEL ART STUDIOS

ERKEL
ERKEL SZÍNHÁZ
ERKEL THEATRE

OPERA.HU | FACEBOOK.COM/OPERAHAZ |
@OPERABUDAPEST

Slavic²³ Season²⁴



THE SEASON IN NUMBERS

- 16** premieres (9 full-length, 3 one-act, 2 children's productions)
- 270** opera performances
- 41** opera titles
- 11** opera premieres
- 130** ballet performances
- 19** ballet titles
- 3** ballet premieres
- 50** concerts, oratorios, and galas
- 250** performances at the Opera House
- 110** performances at the Eiffel Art Studios
- 10** performances at the Erkel Theatre + guest performances
- 20** tour and guest performances
- 30** types of children's and youth programmes



The thematic seasons of the past 12 years have provided an opportunity to systematically discover the opera oeuvre, and to a lesser extent, the treasures of the ballet genre, and thus, to develop the institution's incomparably rich repertoire further. If we take the national segments, French, German and Italian culture also received very serious emphasis in their respective seasons, and naturally, the Hungarian season was even more important. There is a large and very different opera and ballet culture on the universal palette that has not yet been given the chance to shine as it would deserve, and this is the culture of the Slavic peoples and nations.

Our carefully constructed season features Czech, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, and Slovak as well as South Slavic works, performers and subject matters. Who would have thought, but a total of more than 40 opera and ballet titles, and orchestral pieces include Slavic involvement! The large family of Slavic peoples that surrounds Hungary includes at least 13 nations, and it is vital to understand and feel each other's existence through art. The Slavic Season of the OPERA includes 14 premieres, 41 opera titles and 19 ballet choreographies, a total of 365 performances in 12 months at 3 venues. And they – as well as the audience – are really fortunate, because in 2023/24 we will offer them one of the widest selections in Budapest, Hungary, and the world.



OPERA PREMIERES

The Slavic Season provides an opportunity to present several works that Hungarian audiences have rarely or never heard. 110 years after its Pest premiere, *Boris Godunov* will be performed for the first time in Mussorgsky's original arrangement, and *Rusalka*, Dvořák's world-famous opera, which could only be seen by the public in Budapest as guest performances decades ago, will also be added to the repertoire. Other outstanding events of the season include Péter Eötvös's first Hungarian-language opera composed especially for the Hungarian State Opera, the doyen of Hungarian theatre life, Miklós Szinétár will re-stage *Fra Diavolo*, his first production from 70 years ago, and with *Don Giovanni*, the OPERA will license a production from Salzburg, directed by Claus Guth.

Auber **FRA DIAVOLO, OU L'HÔTELLERIE DE TERRACINE**

Donizetti **IL CAMPANELLO**

Dvořák **RUSALKA**

Eötvös **VALUSKA** (world premiere)

Selmecezi **ARTABAN** (world premiere)

Mozart **COSÌ FAN TUTTE** (guest performance)

Mozart **DON GIOVANNI**

Mussorgsky **BORIS GODUNOV**

Rossini **IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA**

Szörényi / Bródy **STEPHEN, THE KING** (junior)

Szymanowski **KRÓL ROGER** (guest performance)

Slavic
Season
23
24

BALLET PREMIERES

Every year without fail, the Hungarian National Ballet, increasingly praised by international critics, proves that its capabilities know no bounds: it manages to entrance audiences with everything from grand ballets requiring spectacular classical technique to contemporary dance pieces interspersed with acrobatic elements. In the 2023/24 season, the series of ballet performances for children will be expanded with a new production: this time the young audience can go on an adventurous journey with *Little Corsaire*, and Bartók's *Dance Triptych* will be reimagined with choreographies by Kristóf Várnagy and Marianna Venekei.

Adam **LITTLE CORSAIRE**

Várnagy / Bartók **DANCE SUITE**

Venekei / Bartók **THE MIRACULOUS MANDARIN**





REPERTOIRE OPERA HOUSE

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, the Opera House, which has regained its former glory, welcomes lovers of opera and ballet, as well as visitors who are just getting to know the genre, with a wide repertoire of Hungarian and international pieces in the 2023/24 season. The audience will be able to see productions seen only at the Erkel Theatre previously, for the first time in the history of OPERA, Wagner's *Ring* cycle will be staged on four consecutive days, in addition to the longest *Nutcracker* series to date, fans of dance can enjoy the most spectacular classical and neoclassical choreographies, but those who are interested in symphonic concerts can also choose from a colourful palette. Moreover, the Ybl Palace offers programmes all year round, so viewers "escaping" from the heat can enjoy Verdi's popular operas during the summer months.

HUNYADI LÁSZLÓ
THE SPINNING ROOM
KING POMÁDÉ'S NEW CLOTHES

LA FILLE DU RÉGIMENT
CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA

PAGLIACCI
LA BOHÈME
MADAMA BUTTERFLY

TOSCA
DIE FLEDERMAUS
ARABELLA

AIDA
UN BALLO IN MASCHERA
NABUCCO
RIGOLETTO
LA TRAVIATA

DAS RHEINGOLD
DIE WALKÜRE
SIEGFRIED
GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG
PARSIFAL

WAR AND PEACE
THE QUEEN OF SPADES

THE NUTCRACKER
LE CORSAIRE
DON QUIXOTE
SPARTACUS
ONEGIN
MAYERLING
THE PYGMALION EFFECT

THE WOODEN PRINCE
PAQUITA SUITE
PETITE MORT
SIX DANCES
ÉTUDES

Slavic
Season
23
24

REPERTOIRE

EIFFEL ART STUDIOS

The artistic complex of the OPERA inaugurated in 2021 continues to impress its many visitors with its sense of novelty, potential, and programmes aimed at young audiences which were also praised by representatives of several European opera houses at a recent conference. In the new season, the audience can once again choose from a number of family and youth performances, but fans of contemporary dance pieces or intimate song recitals can find suitable events, too. Furthermore, owing to its technical features, the Bánffy Stage will be transformed from time to time into a cinema, and the Locomotives Hall will become a temple of music with the participation of international stars.

DIDO AND AENEAS
THE VALIANT JOHNNY
LITTLE SLEEPING BEAUTY
LITTLE SWAN LAKE
THE STUBBORN PRINCESS
THE MAGIC FLUTE FOR CHILDREN
[SKIKKI] 2.0

FIGARO³
THE IMAGINARY INVALID, OR THE CABAL OF HYPOCRITES
LES ENFANTS TERRIBLES
PELLÉAS ET MÉLISANDE
L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA

5 TANGOS
SAD CASE
THE VERTIGINOUS THRILL OF EXACTITUDE
WALKING MAD
PSALMUS100
IL TROVATORE (concert version)



REPERTOIRE

ERKEL THEATRE

In the 2023/24 season, the Erkel Theatre also reopens from time to time until the long overdue comprehensive renovation can commence. Apart from Hungarian State Opera productions, various guest performances will also take place: lovers of lighter genres like musicals and pop concerts will find a number of programmes including a unique traditional Korean performance combining song, music and dance.

JOHN THE VALIANT
STEPHEN, THE KING



Slavic
Season
23
24

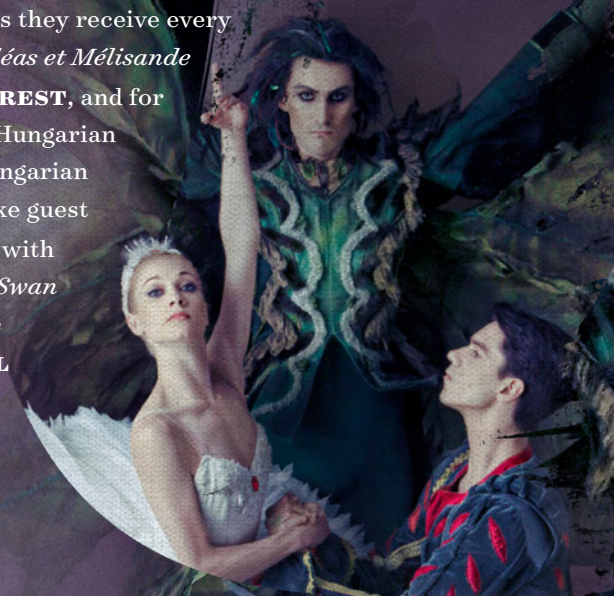
TOURS *and* GUEST PERFORMANCES



The Slavic Season is not without opportunities when the ensembles and artists of the Hungarian State Opera can appear at alternative stages and international venues. The audiences can enjoy outdoor opera performances at well-established summer venues. In 2023, the **MARGARET ISLAND OPEN-AIR THEATRE** presents *Attila* by Verdi as well as a gala performance of Pretty Yende and Nadine Sierra accompanied by the OPERA Orchestra, and a new production of *Il barbiere di Siviglia* will be presented here next year.

Visitors to the **VALLEY OF ARTS** will not be left without an operatic experience, either, and during the unmissable annual OperaFüred programmes, the OPERA Chorus and Orchestra await the audience of **BALATONFÜRED** again, while participants of the Anna Ball can also enjoy performances by our ballet dancers.

There is nothing more suitable to indicate the high standard of the OPERA's ensembles and its productions like the many international invitations they receive every year. In June 2023, *Pelléas et Mélisande* is presented in **BUCHAREST**, and for the very first time, the Hungarian State Opera and the Hungarian National Ballet will make guest appearances in **DUBAI** with *Madama Butterfly* and *Swan Lake*. The latter is to be presented in **ISTANBUL** by the ballet company in the foreseeable future, too.



STARS OF THE SEASON

Opera-goers may already be used to the biggest names in the international opera world occasionally appearing alongside our world-class Hungarian singers in Budapest. Some have even become recurring guests, enthraling audiences at gala events as well as in opera roles.

PLÁCIDO DOMINGO, who is certainly the international star on stage for the longest time in the world of opera, has appeared in Hungary many times, most recently in 2022 at the *Reopening Gala* of the Opera House and in performances of *Simon Boccanegra*. In December 2023, he will visit Budapest again in the title role of the concert version of *Nabucco. Il trovatore* can also be seen in a concert version in the Locomotive Hall of the Eiffel Art Studios in February 2024, where the roles of Leonora and Manrico will be sung by the returning star singer-couple ANNA NETREBKO and YUSIF EYVAZOV.

The OPERA continues its *Star recitals with piano accompaniment* series in which international renowned artists including KRISTÏNE OPOLAIS, PIOTR BECZALA, OLGA PERETYATKO and FERRUCCIO FURLANETTO all well-known to Hungarian audiences will appear on stage of the Opera House. The series will also give the opportunity for the American LISETTE OROPESA to make her Budapest debut.

Independent gala evenings for active Hungarian Kossuth Award recipient opera singers will also take place entitled *Prima Donnas*. The seven internationally renowned artists – ILONA TOKODY, ILDIKÓ KOMLÓSI, LUKÁCS GYÖNGYI, KLÁRA KOLONITS, ESZTER SÛMEGI, ERIKA MIKLÓSA and ANDREA ROST – can choose their programme freely in the intimate Bánffy Stage of the Eiffel Art Studios.

Slavic
Season
23
24

DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS OF THE SEASON

A great number of directors and choreographers will again be responsible for maintaining the variety of the works on the institution's repertoire: they include foreign artists as well as recognised artists and up-and-coming talents.

Two significant operas, *Rusalka* and *Boris Godunov*, included in the Slavic Season, are directed by JÁNOS SZIKORA and ANDRÁS ALMÁSI-TÓTH, respectively. The audience attending *Artaban* can take part in a unique theatrical experience based on the concept of SZILVESZTER ÓKOVÁCS and TAMÁS ÉRDI, CSABA KÁEL will reimagine his *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the Margaret Island Open-Air Theatre, and the Salzburg *Don Giovanni* by renowned director Claus Guth also enters the Hungarian State Opera repertoire.

Popular productions by CALIXTO BIEITO, FABIO CERESA, KIRSTEN DEHLHOLM, GEORGES DELNON, VADIM MILKOV, MICHAŁ ZNANIECKI, FERENC ANGER, TIBOR BOGÁNYI, GÉZA M. TÓTH, JÁNOS MOHÁCSI, MÁTÉ SZABÓ, MIKLÓS Szinetár, and performances mixing opera and dance by DÓRA BARTA will also return to the repertoire.

Following this season's *The Wooden Prince* performance, two further dance pieces, *Dance Suite* and *The Miraculous Mandarin* by Bartók will be staged with new choreographies by KRISTÓF VÁRNAGY and MARIANNA VENEKEI. After a hiatus due to the restoration of the Opera House, productions by ANNA-MARIE HOLMES and LÁSZLÓ SEREGI will return to the stage of the historic venue. The repertoire will once again include classical and neoclassical productions by JOHN CRANKO, WAYNE EAGLING, SIR KENNETH MACMILLAN, MICHAEL MESSERER and TAMÁS SOLYMOSI as well as contemporary pieces by BORIS EIFMAN, WILLIAM FORSTYHE, JIŘÍ KYLIÁN, HANS VAN MANEN and many other international choreographers.



CONDUCTORS OF THE SEASON

The OPERA Orchestra, as the symphony orchestra with the most performances in the nation, will be participating in almost 400 concerts, galas, and opera and ballet performances in the 2023/24 season. At the traditional jubilee concerts, the ensemble will play works by Slavic composers in line with the theme of the season, but Kodály's *Psalmus Hungaricus* will also be performed on the 100th anniversary of its world premiere.

In addition to the most excellent Hungarian conductors including DOMONKOS HÉJA, GERGELY KESSELYÁK, BALÁZS KOCSÁR, JÁNOS KOVÁCS, ÁDÁM MEDVECZKY, and GERGELY VAJDA, the OPERA orchestra will also perform under the baton of some international stars. Recurring guest conductors are PAUL CONNELLY (*Don Quixote*, *Spartacus*), THOMAS HERZOG (*The Pygmalion Effect*, *Le corsaire*), LEONARDO SINI (*Nabucco*), ALAN BURIBAYEV (*War and Peace*) and OLIVÉR DOHNÁNYI (*Golden Age – Slavs; The Queen of Spades*), and PÉTER EÖTVÖS is to conduct the world premiere of his own opera, *Valuska*.

Slavic
Season
23
24



SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE 2023/24 SEASON

With the 2022 reopening of the Opera House and the 2021 inauguration of the Eiffel Art Studios, it is now possible to return to the previous subscription system, i.e. subscription holders of the 2022/23 season can renew their subscriptions between on **27 & 28 MARCH 2023** at the Opera House and online.

(Previous combined passes will discontinue. Holders of combined or Eiffel subscriptions for the 2022/23 season will be provided with a pre-purchase option for this period.)

New subscriptions are available until **31 MAY 2023**

29 MARCH – 31 MAY 2023 at the Opera House and online

3 APRIL – 31 MAY 2023 at the Opera Sales Centre

Opera House ticket office: 1061 Budapest, Andrásy út 22.

Opera Sales Centre: 1061 Budapest, Hajós utca 13–15.

(Wed 10:00–17:00, Fri 10:00–14:00)

Online: **www.opera.hu**

Subscription holders who bought their subscriptions for the previous season online will receive information and access to their personal page via e-mail.

Individual tickets on sale: from **3 MAY 2023**.

Tuesday discount: tickets for Tuesday performances organised by the OPERA can be purchased with a 20–25% discount between

27 MARCH & 3 MAY 2023.

FOR POSSIBLE CHANGES AND UPDATES PLEASE CHECK WWW.OPERA.HU REGULARLY.

Slavic
Season
23
24

STRATEGIC PARTNERS



GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS



SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS



BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS

FŐBER ZRT. | KEMENES CUKRÁSZ MANUFAKTÚRA KFT.
NYÚL ERIKA | VABEKO KFT.

KEY ARTISTIC PARTNERS

Bartók Spring International Arts Weeks
Cluj-Napoca Hungarian Opera
Filharmonia Hungary
Hungarian Dance Academy
Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music

Liszt International Culture Festival
Margaret Island Theatre
Müpa Budapest
University of Theatre and Film Arts
Zikkurat Theatre Agency

CO-OPERATING PARTNERS

A'Capella Winery
Association of Hungarian Medical Societies
Budapest Association of Friends of the Opera
Castle Headquarters
Diafilmgyártó Ltd.
Goethe-Institut Budapest
Hungarian Interchurch Aid
Hungarian Medical Chamber
The Hungarian Museum of Science, Technology and Transport
Hungarian National Ambulance Service

Municipality of Terézváros
National Association of Large Families
Piarista Bor
Rózsavölgyi Music Store
Skrabski Winery
Town of Balatonfüred
Town of Veszprém
VeszprémFest
Ybl Association
Zhoja