



ANGLO
PHONIE
SEASON



2024
25

ANGLOPHONE
SEASON



THE SEASON IN FIGURES

- 20** premieres (6 full-length, 9 chamber productions, 5 children's productions)
- 260** opera performances
- 41** opera titles
- 120** ballet performances
- 15** ballet titles
- 5** musical theatre productions
- 40** concerts, oratorios, galas, and recitals
- 30** types of children's and youth programmes
- 50** performances by the Children's Chorus and the Ballet Institute
- 315** performances at the Opera House
- 190** performances at the Eiffel Art Studios
- 40** tour and guest performances

Following the Italian, German, French, Hungarian, and Slavic thematic seasons in the past decade, it is now time for the Anglophone Season! Thinking of the history of English music, you might think at first that it can be summed up with works of Purcell and Britten. Who would believe that it could not be more different, and the theme could make up an entire season at the Hungarian State Opera? The Anglophone Season showcases productions by composers, creative artists, and performers that are in some way all connected to British, American, or even South African cultural heritage. The well-known, almost mandatory repertoire pieces such as *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *La bohème*, *Swan Lake* will also return, of course. From baroque to contemporary music, from classical to modern ballet, from children's and youth programs to stars' recitals with piano, and a number of domestic tours to international guest performances in Dubai will all be a part of the OPERA's season, and, we trust, the life of our audience.

OPERA PREMIERES

In the 2024/25 season, whose productions are linked to British and American culture and history story in terms of their composers, subject, and featured artists, John Adams's *Nixon in China*, Philip Venables' *Denis & Katya* and George Benjamin's *Into the Little Hill* will enjoy their Hungarian premieres, whereas Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda* will also be produced by the Hungarian State Opera for the first time. In addition to countless surprises and special features, it is also no coincidence that through Shakespeare, the author of the original play, and director Matthew Wild of South African origin, Verdi's *Macbeth* ties in with the theme of the season in more than one way.

MAIN STAGE PRODUCTIONS

Adams **NIXON IN CHINA** (Hungarian premiere)

Donizetti **MARIA STUARDA** (first time at the OPERA)

Puccini **TURANDOT**

Verdi **MACBETH**

Verdi **REQUIEM**

CHAMBER PRODUCTIONS

Ábel M.G.E. **I'M CLEANING, I'M CLEANING** (Hungarian premiere)

Balogh / Ókovács **CROWN MONOLOGUES** (world premiere)

Benjamin **INTO THE LITTLE HILL** (Hungarian premiere)

Gluck **ORFEO ED EURIDICE**

Gulyás **HOW BIG IS THE PALM OF GOD'S HAND?**

(world premiere)

Kutrik / Almási-Tóth **ICH BIN EIN ...ER** (world premiere)

Szálinger **FINAL FUGUE, OR VERDI REIMAGINED**

(world premiere)

Venables **DENIS & KATYA** (Hungarian premiere)

CHILDREN'S PRODUCTIONS (see p. 12)

BALLET PREMIERES

In addition to the diverse repertoire performances, the OPERA will present a spectacular main stage ballet production. *La Bayadère* by Marius Petipa with music by Ludwig Minkus takes the viewer into legendary India through the love story of a temple dancer and a noble warrior. The Hungarian National Ballet strives to preserve the classical ballet tradition year after year. *La Bayadère* promises to be an exciting challenge: the fourth act of Petipa's choreography as presented at the Mariinsky Theatre in 1877 is lost. Ballet master Albert Mirzoyan will undertake the task to reconstruct the missing parts by following the original.

Another delightful addition to the choice of dance performances is part of a show entitled Mini-Operas taking place behind the scenes of an imaginary opera house and comprising four operas sketches and the ballet *Principal Igor*. Attila Pacsay writes the music for the frame story, the music of Borodin is reworked by Márton Andorka for *Principal Igor*, its choreography is made by Dávid Kerényi Miklós.



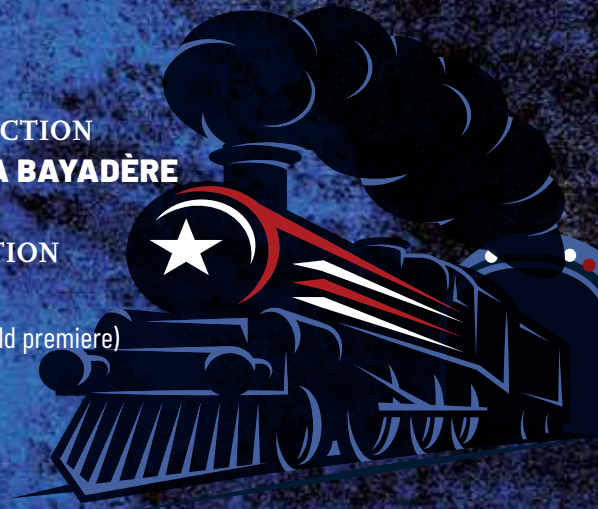
MAIN STAGE PRODUCTION

Petipa-Mirzoyan / Minkus **LA BAYADÈRE**

CHAMBER PRODUCTION

Kerényi / Borodin / Andorka

PRINCIPAL IGOR (world premiere)



REPERTOIRE

OPERA HOUSE

Beside staging new productions of well-known pieces and presenting rarities, among the many missions of the Hungarian State Opera is the revival of performances from previous seasons time after time. The 2024/25 season brings back Bizet's *Carmen*, Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer*, Verdi's *Otello*, Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, J. Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, and Gounod's *Faust* are all part of the selection. A real historical arc of Hungarian opera emerges from Erkel's *Bánk Bán (The Viceroy Bánk)* to Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* and János Vajda's *Mario and the Magician*. There is another composer who cannot be missing from the repertoire: it is Mozart and his *Le nozze di Figaro*. Spectacular ballet revivals include MacMillan and Massenet's *Manon*, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, and Ronald Hynd's *The Merry Widow* set to the music of Lehár, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* choreographed by László Seregi will also return to the stage.

**BÁNK BÁN
(THE VICEROY BÁNK)
BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE
MARIO AND THE MAGICIAN**

**OTELLO
FALSTAFF
DON CARLO
UN BALLO IN MASCHERA
DER FLIEGENDE HOLLÄNDER
PARSIFAL
MANON LESCAUT
LA BOHÈME
LA FANCIULLA DEL WEST**

**IDOMENEO
LE NOZZE DI FIGARO
DON PASQUALE
GIOCONDA
FAUST**

**DIE FLEDERMAUS
CARMINA BURANA
PORGY AND BESS**

**A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM
SWAN LAKE
COPPELIA
THE NUTCRACKER
THE MERRY WIDOW
MANON**

**SYMPHONY OF A THOUSAND
MESSIAH
SYMPHONY NO. 9
MATTHÄUS-PASSION
EASTER WITH MASCAGN**

REPERTOIRE

EIFFEL ART STUDIOS

The Eiffel Art Studios might be a bit farther away from the historical and touristic centre of Budapest, but its mission is similar to that of the Opera House. The complex serves the undisclosed purpose of bringing the gigantic yet often distancing genres really close to young audiences and families with a variety of opera and ballet performances, children's, youth, students' and family programmes. The Anglophone Season presents *John the Valiant* by Kacsóh, *Il campanello* by Donizetti, and *The Tempest* by Adès there alongside a selection of such Hungarian comic operas as *Love Adrift (Hochzeit im Fasching)* by Ede Poldini, *The Gold and the Woman* by Jenő Kenessey, and *The Tót Family* by Péter Tóth, based on the well-known story by Örkény. As for ballet, the venue is perfect for a more experimental, modern style represented by *5 Tangos*, *Trois Gnessiennes*, or *Sad Case*. Marianna Venekei's full-length choreography of *A Streetcar Named Desire* created to the music of László Dés also returns to the programme.

**JOHN THE VALIANT
LOVE ADRIFT
THE GOLD AND THE WOMAN
THE TÓT FAMILY
STEPHEN, THE KING
CHRYSANTHEMUMS,
OR THE DEATH OF LIÙ
SIEGFRIED IDYLL, OR THE
END OF A FRIENDSHIP
ARTABAN**

**THE FAIRY QUEEN
DIE ENTFÜHRUNG
AUS DEM SERAIL
IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA
THE JEWELLER'S SHOP
THE TEMPEST
DEAD MAN WALKING**

**5 TANGOS
TROIS GNESSIENNES
SAD CASE
PETITE MORT
SIX DANCES
A STREETCAR NAMED
DESIRE**

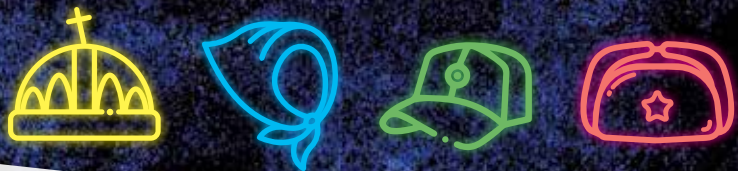


TOURS & GUEST PERFORMANCES

From **Szeged** to **Dubai**, from **Pécs** to **Taiwan** – as it has been customary for years, domestic and international guest performances also form an important part of the OPERA's 2024/25 season. It is still in the ongoing season, that a concert performance of *Manon Lescaut* will be presented in Bucharest, and the annual three-day OperaFüred festival in **Balatonfüred** along with events at **Margaret Island** should not be missed this summer. In the autumn, José Cura will direct *Tosca* in **Pécs** and a concert version will travel to **Székesfehérvár**. As part of the Hungarian-Turkish cultural season, Kodály's *Psalmus Hungaricus*, Bartók's *Dance Suite*, and other important Hungarian pieces will be performed in **Ankara** with the local orchestra and Hungarian singers, conducted by István Dénes. In return, a **Turkish** guest performance of the opera *Murat IV* will come to Hungary, and the **Krakow Opera** will also present one of their works in Budapest. In the meantime, some Hungarian National Balle productions will ravel the world: *Swan Lake* goes to **Taiwan** (together with *Madama Butterfly*) and *Sleeping Beauty* (together with *La bohème*) to Dubai in April, and in December two of our Étoiles will join **Bogotá's** production of *The Nutcracker*.

STARS OF THE SEASON

The 2024/25 season of the OPERA will organise its *Stars' recitals with piano* series for the third time in which such internationally renowned soloists present their favourite songs and arias as **Erwin Schrott**, **Matthew Polenzani**, **Vittorio Grigolo**, **Georg Zeppenfeld**, and **Joyce DiDonato**. The Solti Gala will feature British-Italian tenor **Freddie De Tommaso**, currently dubbed as "the youngest Cavaradossi". Beside international stars, audiences can see their Hungarian favourites, also of international fame, in a variety of opera productions: **Eszter Sümegi** in *Der fliegende Holländer*, *Cavalleria rusticana*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Turandot*, **Ildikó Komlósi** in *Un ballo in maschera* and *Bánk Bán*, **Mihály Kálmándy** in *De fliegende Holländer* and *Macbeth*, and recent Kossuth Prize recipient **Gábor Bretz** in *Don Carlo* and *Parsifal*. **David Adam Moore** will return to reprise his role in *Dead Man Walking* as well as to present his production of *Winterreise*, **Gaston Rivero** will star in *Manon Lescaut* and *La fanciulla del West*, **Sir Willard White** will perform the role of Porgy, **Yusif Eyvazov** will sing Kalaf in the new *Turandot* and appear in an opera gala with **Anna Netrebko**, **Juraj Hollý** will join the cast of *Maria Stuarda*, and **José Cura**, a regular guest at the OPERA will also make an appearance in *Otello*.



DIRECTORS & CHOREOGRAPHERS OF THE SEASON

Among the productions of next season. *Macbeth*, directed by **Matthew Wild**, promises to be a real treat. Artistic director **András Almási-Tóth** will stage John Adams' opera *Nixon in China*, for the first time in Hungary, as well as a visual presentation of Verdi's *Requiem*. His previous productions of *Parsifal*, *Love Adrift*, and *Gioconda* will also be part of the repertoire. After the highly impressive *Figaro*, **András Dömötör** will return to direct again, namely, an evening comprising four chamber pieces full of exciting surprises entitled *Mini-Operas*. **Máté Szabó**, a director who works with the OPERA every year, will now stage Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda*.

A range of productions by international directors such as **Stefano Poda**, **Calixto Bieito**, **Arnaud Bernard**, **Ludger Engels**, **Michał Znaniecki**, **Vasily Barkhatov**, **Frank Hilbrich**, and **Fabio Ceresa** can be seen again along with works staged by influential Hungarian directors including **Miklós Szinetár**, **Csaba Káel**, **Judit Galgóczy**, and **Attila Toronykőy**.

Ballets by several well-known and popular choreographers can be enjoyed in the new season. In addition to *A Streetcar Named Desire* by **Marianna Venekei** and *The Nutcracker* by **Tamás Solymosi** and **Wayne Eagling**, director-choreographer **Dóra Barta**'s new production of *Turandot* will premiere, whose 2022 staging of *Dido and Aeneas* will also feature in the season. Dance productions by internationally acknowledged contemporary artist such as **Hans van Manen**, **Sol León & Paul Lightfoot**, and **Jiří Kylián** are also essential parts of the 2024/25 ballet repertoire.

CONDUCTORS OF THE SEASON

The OPERA can also be proud of the fact that famous Hungarian and international personalities conduct its performances. **Paul Connelly**, a returning guest for many years, is a renowned ballet conductor who will now conduct the ballet *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. **Pier Giorgio Morandi**, **Christian Badae**, and **Thomas Herzog** are also well-known names to the Hungarian audience. As a real curiosity, Venezuelan countertenor **Rodrigo Sosa Dal Pozzo** will appear in the performances of *Orfeo & Euridice* singing the title role and conducting it as well. Among the internationally renowned Hungarian conductors, several productions will feature principal conductor **Martin Rajna** and principal guest conductor **Péter Halász**, but **Domonkos Héja**, **Balázs Kocsár**, and **Gergely Kesselyák** will all return. Beside opera and ballet performances, the OPERA has always presented symphonic concerts as well. The orchestra will perform a concert tying in with the theme of the season including works by Britten, Elgar, and Holst under the baton of **David Coleman**, and the conductor of another tradition, Verdi's *Requiem* around All Souls's Day will be **Péter Dobszay**. Former music director of Komische Oper Berlin, **Henrik Nánási** is to conduct *Gurre-Lieder* by Schönberg, whereas *Nixon in China* and *Dead Man Walking* will be conducted by **Gergely Vajda**. A conductor without whom no season could pass is **János Kovács**, who will conduct the orchestra in *Un ballo in maschera*, *Faust*, *Bluebeard's Castle*, and *Mario and the Magician* as well as in several international guest performances.



CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMES

The OPERA also provides for the fun and education of children, from toddlers to adolescents in the Anglophone Season with a wide range of programmes. The popular “little” productions – *Little Swan Lake*, *Little Sleeping Beauty*, and *Little Corsaire* – all return, and a new *The Jungle Booklet* is added to the series as well as *The Little Sweep* by Britten tying in with the theme of the season. During the winter holiday, *Hungarian Christmas* provides the festive atmosphere. Its world premiere is directed by Attila Toronykóy, whose other productions, *Magic Flute for Children*, *Il campanello*, and *Schicchi 2.0*, aimed at younger audiences remain on the repertoire together with Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* staged by Dóra Barta.

HUNGARIAN CHRISTMAS (world premiere)
THE LITTLE SWEEP
THE JUNGLE BOOKLET
THE TELEPHONE
BASTIEN UND BASTIENNE

MAGIC FLUTE FOR CHILDREN
LITTLE SLEEPING BEAUTY
LITTLE SWAN LAKE
LITTLE CORSAIRE
STEPHEN, THE KING (JUNIOR)
THE VALIANT JOHNNY
IL CAMPANELLO
SCHICCHI 2.0
DIDO AND AENEAS

Season preview written and edited by
Diána Eszter Mátrai, György Jávorszky



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