

OPERA

MAGYAR ÁLLAMI OPERAHÁZ
HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA

STRAUSS
150

2013
14

RICHARD STRAUSS 150 FESTIVAL



Strauss premières in 2013/14

May celebration

For the jubilee year of Richard Strauss's 150th birthday, the Opera will run all six of the operas generally considered to be the composer's most important creative works. Four new productions have been added to the two previously in the repertoire, and each of the six will be performed twice with a festival-calibre cast of top artists. Before the festival's final performance, we will also be inaugurating Márk Lelkes's newly sculpted statue of Strauss, which will henceforth grace the Opera House.

RICHARD STRAUSS 150 FESTIVAL

Die Frau ohne Schatten

(The Woman without a Shadow)

Hungarian Première
Opera in three acts

Conductor | Péter Halász
Set designer | Balázs Horesnyi
Costume designer | Kati Zoób
Director | János Szikora

Cast ▶ Eszter Sümegi, Ildiko Komlósi, Alik Abdukayumov,
Ingrid Kertesi, Péter Balczó, Erika Markovics, Atala Schöck,
Heiko Trinsinger, Szilvia Rálik, Lajos Geiger, Ferenc Cserhalmi,
Gyula Rab, Ildiko Szakács, Bori Keszei, Gabriella Balga

"The plot of the opera begins with two men who have gained what they were longing for. However, one day it dawns on them both that the objects of their desire will soon be lost.

To possess some kind of treasure unconsciously and to realise its value in horror when it has already been lost – is this not the startled awakening of the man of the early 20th century reflected in the opera? Today, this performance suggests that, although time has passed us by, none of the problems have been solved that Hofmannsthal and Strauss had to face a century ago." *(János Szikora)*

25, 28 AND 31 MAY 2014; 4 JUNE 2014 OPERA HOUSE

"Let us make up our minds that *Frau ohne Schatten* shall be our last romantic opera," wrote Richard Strauss to his faithful librettist Hugo von Hofmannsthal. The opera, which was premiered in 1919 and has already long been considered one of the core works of the Strauss cult, or even the composer's magnum opus, will now be arriving for its début on the stage of the Budapest Opera.

Budapest
Philharmonic
Orchestra
gala concert

Conductor Pinchas Steinberg

Strauss ▶ Capriccio - prelude

Strauss ▶ Four last songs

Strauss ▶ Also sprach Zarathustra, op. 30

Featuring | Ricarda Merbeth - soprano

gala

9 JUNE 2014 OPERA HOUSE

Strauss productions
from the repertoire
2013/14

RICHARD STRAUSS 150 FESTIVAL

Der Rosen kavalier

Comic opera in three acts

Librettist | Hugo von Hofmannsthal
Conductor | Stefan Soltesz, Jun Märkl
Dramaturg | Jochen Breiholz
Choreographer | Jenő Lőcsei
Lighting | Kevin Wyn-Jones
Set designer | Miklós Fehér
Costume designer | Julia Müer
Director | Andrejs Žagars

Cast ▶ Tünde Szabóki, Alfred Muff, Kurt Rydl, Viktória Mester,
Andrea Meláth, János Gurbán, Zoltán Kelemen, Júlia Hajnóczy,
Rita Rác, Mária Temesi, Zoltán Megyesi, Andrea Ulbrich,
Erika Gál, János Tóth, László Beöthy-Kiss, Péter Kiss,
Kázmér Sárkány, András Hábetler, Árpád Szűcs,
Gergely Boncsér, Attila Fekete

"The concept behind my staging was to set this very special Strauss piece in the date – 1910 – when it actually came into being. I have never seen this opera staged this way before. Everything, the costumes, the scenery, even the characters resemble the Vienna Secession, just before the outbreak of WWI. But for me *Der Rosenkavalier* is not about politics. I concentrated on human drama, the very intimate, inner feelings of the characters participating in this amazingly elaborated and sensitive story." (*Andrejs Žagars*)

"This production by the Hungarian State Opera is spellbinding in its musicality as well as the quality of singing." (*Das Opernglas*)

5 AND 10 JUNE 2014 OPERA HOUSE

Salome Arabella

Musical drama in one act

Libretto after the play by Oscar Wilde | **Hedwig Lachmann**

Conductor | **Pinchas Steinberg**

Choreographer | **Lilla Pártay**

Set designer | **Attila Csikós**

Costume designer | **Judit Schäffer**

Director | **János Szikora**

Cast ▶ **Gerhard Siegel, Bernadett Wiedemann, Andrea Ulbrich, Szilvia Rálik, Nadja Michael, Johannes von Duisburg, Mihály Kálmándi, Zoltán Nyári, Gabriella Balga, István Horváth, Attila Fekete, Péter Kiss, Zoltán Megyesi, Gergely Boncsér, Marcell Bakonyi, Gábor Bretz, Krisztián Cser, Tamás Kóbor, Sándor Egri, Ferenc Cserhalmi**

"According to Meyring, many people view new things from an old perspective instead of seeing old things from a new one. This is the key to our performance of *Salome*: to find the perspective from which the hypersensitive artists of the turn of the last century viewed the ancient myths." (*János Szikora*)

29 MAY 2014; 1 JUNE 2014 OPERA HOUSE

Opera in three acts

Librettist | **Hugo von Hofmannsthal**

Conductor | **Günther Neuhold**

Lighting | **Sándor Kardos**

Set designer | **Attila Csikós**

Costume designer | **Rita Velich**

Director | **Géza Bereményi**

Cast ▶ **László Szvétek, Bernadett Wiedemann, Ildikó Raimondi, Zita Váradi, Daniel Pataky, Attila Wendler, András Káldi Kiss, Sándor Egri, Erika Miklósa, Zsuzsanna Fülöp, József Mukk**

"Our aim was to put *Arabella* on stage with great precision as if it had been an original Hungarian premiere. Yes, we find ourselves in the Vienna of 1861, so why not see the town in front of us? The secrets of this opus can only be revealed if we remain faithful to the intentions of the composer: it is a witty, lyrical, idealized comic opera, a one of a kind that must and can be loved immensely." (*Géza Bereményi*)

27 AND 30 MAY 2014 OPERA HOUSE

Naxos Ariadne

auf

Elektra

Opera in one act with prologue

Librettist | **Hugo von Hofmannsthal**
Conductor | **Dömönkos Héja**
Choreographer | **Marianna Venekei**
Set & costume designer | **Gergely Zöldy Z.**
Director | **Ferenc Anger**

Cast ▶ **Franz Tscherné, János Gurbán, Éva Várhelyi, István Kovácsházi, Zoltán Megyesi, Róbert Rezsnyák, Tamás Szüle, Julia Novikova, Tünde Szabóki, Csaba Szegedi, Dániel Vadász, Krisztian Cser, István Horváth, Zita Váradi, Atala Schöck, Eszter Wierdl**

"Those who step on stage are in love with it; but they also put their lives on the line when they approach it. We risk our necks before the audience, and yet, this is what we love to do." (*Ferenc Anger*)

3 AND 7 JUNE 2014 OPERA HOUSE

Tragedy in one act

Librettist | **Hugo von Hofmannsthal**
Conductor | **Stefan Soltesz**
Set designer | **Csaba Antal**
Costume designer | **Mari Benedek**
Director | **Balázs Kovalik**

Cast ▶ **Éva Balatoni, Szilvia Rálik, Tünde Szabóki, Dénes Gulyás, Gábor Bretz, István Berczelly, Tímea Balogh, Valéria Polyák, Dániel Vadász, Zsolt Haja, Mária Farkasréti, Kornélia Bakos, Lúcia Megyesi Schwartz, Szilvia Vörös, Beatrix Fodor, Gabriella Fodor**

The music's on. Joyous music. The music of the world beyond that can only be heard by those about to leave their earthly lives behind. Elektra's existence had one sole purpose that has now been fulfilled. The prospect of a new life is opening up for Chrysothemis. The transfer of power is complete. The new monarch is Orestes – whose name means "climber of mountains."
(*Balázs Kovalik*)

8 AND 11 JUNE 2014 OPERA HOUSE

Die Frau ohne Schatten

(25, 28 and 31 May, 4 June) Conductor ▶ Péter Halász

Arabella

(27 and 30 May) Conductor ▶ Günter Neuhold

Salome

(29 May, 1 June)

Conductor ▶ Pinchas Steinberg

Programme of the Strauss 150 Festival

Ariadne auf Naxos

(3 and 7 June) Conductor ▶ Dömönkos Héjã

Der Rosenkavalier

(5 and 10 June) Conductor ▶ Jun Märkl

Elektra

(8 and 11 June) Conductor ▶ Stefan Soltesz

Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra Symphonic Evening

(9 June) Conductor ▶ Pinchas Steinberg

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