

OPERA

MAGYAR ÁLLAMI OPERAHÁZ
HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA

20²⁴
15

SEASON
HIGHLIGHTS

ERKEL

SZÍNHÁZ
THEATRE

6 September 2014, 8:00 pm

FREEDOM OPERA GALA

Exactly 25 years have passed since Hungary bravely opened its borders and allowed tens of thousands of East German tourists to escape to the West. Many people consider this not only to be the first blow struck at the Berlin Wall, but as a crucial moment in the our shared European identity. The programme features four stars of the genre: Anja Kampe, Piotr Beczala, Ferruccio Furlanetto and Andrea Rost. They will perform the arias of freedom, and then will sing some of the famous ensemble pieces from the operatic repertoire together with 25 singers arriving from other European Union nations.

Conductor ► **Péter Halász** *music director*
 Director ► **Ferenc Anger** *artistic director*
 Host ► **Szilveszter Ókovács** *director general*

13 September 2014

SEASON OPENER

P. Mascagni - **Cavalleria rusticana**
opera in one act

Cast ► **Kamen Chanev | Hector Lopez Mendoza | Gyöngyi Lukács | Ildikó Komlósi**
Alexandru Agache

R. Leoncavallo - **Pagliacci**
opera in one act

Cast ► **Kamen Chanev | Hector Lopez Mendoza | Andrea Rost | Polina Pasztircsák**
Alexandru Agache | Zoltán Nagy

Conductor ► **Pinchas Steinberg | Máté Hátori**
 Director ► **Georges Delnon**

Following the tradition we started in 2013, the season-opening premiere will also be projected onto LED walls on Andrásy Avenue, which will be closed to traffic. As part of the open-air programme, *The Night Bell* by Donizetti and *The Telephone* by Menotti, as well as ballet performances and screenings will be shown.

Further dates ► 13, 16, 18, 23, 25, 28 September; 7, 11 October 2014 Opera House

27 September 2014, 7:00 pm

OPERA HOUSE 130

At 7 o'clock on the evening of 27 September 1884, the Opera House in Budapest opened in the presence of Franz Joseph, Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary. In this memorial year, Miklós Ybl's masterpiece will now be "re-inaugurated" in what is also the 200th anniversary of the architect's birth. The inaugural procession will be reconstructed and the opening ceremonies re-enacted. The king and his retinue arrive from the Castle in carriages, awaited at the Opera House by members of the Tisza government and the architect Ybl, while the gazing crowds flood into the entrance hall of the Opera with an unquenchable curiosity... This celebratory programme will partly follow the original schedule of 130 years ago – but with an added twist.

Conductor ► **Ádám Medveczky**

Ferenc Erkel - **Bánk bán** (Act II with legends – featuring **András Molnár | Ilona Tokody**
Éva Marton | István Berczelly | Dénes Gulyás | Csaba Ötvös)
 Ferenc Erkel - **Hunyadi László** (overture)
 Robert North - **Troy Game – with Amazons** (parody of a ballet parody, premiere)
 Géza M. Tóth - **The Palace on Sugár út** (film premiere)

14 February 2015

FAUST BALL

The 2015 carnival season will be crowned by the Opera Ball. For the Faust season, two special artists will be bringing this devilish theme to life: Angela Gheorghiu, the world-famous diva, and Carlos Acosta, the star dancer, will visit Hungary for the first time. Just as the world of sport was featured last year, this year it is the turn of science to play the same role, so we will be inviting Hungary's greatest personalities from this field to the Opera. The ball retains its philanthropic objective: we are continuing with the ambulance project, and there also will be an opportunity to make a convivial contribution on the square next to the Opera House at the Dalszínház Street Ball, where we will be projecting the Faust Ball's festive programme live.

Conductor ► **Péter Halász** *music director*
 Director ► **Ferenc Anger** *artistic director*, **Tamás Solymosi** *ballet director*
 Host ► **Szilveszter Ókovács** *director general*

W. A. Mozart

COSÌ FAN TUTTE*comic opera in two acts*

Conductor ► Péter Halász, György Vashegyi

Director ► Jiří Menzel

Cast ► Mária Celeng | Klára Kolonits | Gabriella Balga | Zsófia Kálnay | Dávid Szigetvári
Tamás Tarjányi | Zsolt Haja | Zoltán Nagy | Emőke Baráth | Orsolya Sáfár | Péter Kálmán

"Thus do all women," argues Don Alfonso, the old philosopher. An unsparing morality tale of how much we (don't) know our own characters, emotions, desires and limits. Something that is not easy to confront. And nor are its consequences...

10, 12, 16, 18, 21, 24, 26 October; 14, 16, 18, 22 November 2014 Opera House

C. M. von Weber

DER FREISCHÜTZ*opera in three acts*

Conductor ► Péter Halász

Director ► Sándor Zsótér

Cast ► István Kovács | István Rácz | Tünde Szabóki | Beatrix Fodor | Eszter Wierdl
Rita Rácz | András Pallerdi | Krisztián Cser | István Kovácsházi

The Book of Ghosts opens and magic bullets roll out of it. Gruesome things are about to happen. The normal way of the huntsmen is disturbed by demonic forces. Vanquisher 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.

14, 16, 18, 21, 26, 28 December 2014 Erkel Theatre
27, 29 May 2015 Opera House

G. Bizet

CARMEN*opera in three acts*

Conductor ► János Kovács | István Dénes

Director ► Pál Oberfrank

Cast ► Zoltán Nyári | Atilla Kiss B. | Mihály Kálmándi | Mark Mazuir | Erika Gál
Atala Schöck | Gabriella Létay Kiss | Polina Pasztircsák

Carmen is the most erotic figure in operatic literature: exotic, headstrong and unbridled – that is, madly alluring and mysterious, her life is composed of dance, song and freedom. She believes in love, in the cards, in Fate and its fulfilment – whether that means life or death.

31 October; 6, 9, 12, 16, 18, 21, 25, 27, 29 November 2014 Erkel Theatre

G. Verdi

AIDA*opera in three parts*

Conductor ► Gergely Kesselyák

Director ► János Mohácsi

Cast ► Ildikó Komlósi | Erika Gál | Eszter Sümegi | Csilla Boross | Attila Fekete
Fabio Sartori | Mihály Kálmándi | Anatolij Fokanov

The opera takes place in the age of the pharaohs, when Egypt was in the process of conquering Ethiopia. However, it wasn't the exoticism of the world of the pharaohs that excited Verdi. He dedicated Aida to the celebration of universal harmony and peace among nations, with all the pomp and ceremony that a celebratory event deserves.

4, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 19 April 2015 Erkel Theatre



OPERA PREMIERES

R. Wagner

DAS RHEINGOLD

*The Ring of the Nibelung – preliminary evening
opera in one act*

Conductor ▶ **Péter Halász**

Director ▶ **Géza M. Tóth**

Cast ▶ **Mihály Kálmándi | Zoltán Nyári | Adrian Eröd | Judit Németh**

The Opera is bringing the four-part masterpiece to the stage in a new set of productions. Das Rheingold introduces the audience to the magical world of nixies, dwarves, gods, valkyries and giants. Drawing from Icelandic and German sagas, Wagner astonishes audiences with stories set to music of such grandiosity that no one can claim to be left unaffected.

21, 24, 26, 28 March 2015 Opera House

A. Vivaldi

FARNACE

opera in three acts – Hungarian premiere

Conductor ▶ **Pál Németh**

Director ▶ **Ferenc Anger**

Cast ▶ **Xavier Sabata | Tünde Szabóki | Viktória Vizin | Atala Schöck | Nóra Ducza**

The Hungarian premiere is the first occasion a Vivaldi opera will be appearing on the Budapest Opera playbill. Intrigue, politics, a death sentence, love, manipulation, and hatred abound as the characters find themselves in the most extreme of situations and traverse an enormously wide range of emotions.

12, 14, 18, 20 June 2015 Erkel Theatre

BALLET PREMIERES

Sir Kenneth MacMillan–J. Massenet

MANON

ballet in three acts – Hungarian premiere

Conductor ▶ **Gergely Kesselyák | István Silló**

Choreographer ▶ **Sir Kenneth MacMillan**

Staged by ▶ **Maina Gielgud**

For the first time, we are bringing Manon to the stage with Hungarian artist. To date, Hungarian audiences have only been able to see the work in guest performances by foreign companies. Here, Manon is being staged with MacMillan's original scenery and costumes.

28 February; 1, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12 and 13 March 2015 Opera House

Rudi van Dantzig, Toer van Schayk–P. I. Tchaikovsky

SWAN LAKE

classical ballet in three acts

Conductor ▶ **András Déri**

Choreography adapted from **Marius Petipa** and **Lev Ivanov** ▶ **Rudi van Dantzig**

Folk dance choreography ▶ **Toer van Schayk**

Tchaikovsky's first ballet is the most beloved classical piece in ballet literature. It's as good as customary for the same female ballet dancer to portray both Odette – the pure, innocent white swan – and Odile – the seductive, manipulative black swan; and this will also be the case in the Hungarian National Ballet's brand-new production.

25, 26, 29, 30 April ; 2, 3, 7, 9, 10 May 2015 Opera House

G. Puccini

TOSCA*opera in three acts*

Conductor ► **Gergely Kesselyák**
 Director ► **Viktor Nagy**

Cast ► **Csilla Boross | Gyöngyi Lukács | Attila Fekete | Atilla Kiss B. | Anatolij Fokanov
 Alexandru Agache | Ambrogio Maestri**

Puccini's Tosca is a genuine action drama for the stage. A convict's escape from prison, murder, interrogation, torture, prayer, a sworn oath, an execution, and then all of these crowned by a suicide – the story of Tosca, Cavaradossi and Scarpia never gets boring.

26, 28 September; 2, 4, 25, 29 October; 2, 13, 26 November 2014 Opera House



G. Verdi

IL TROVATORE*opera in two parts*

Conductor ► **János Kovács**
 Director ► **László Vámos**

Cast ► **Anatolij Fokanov | Gabriella Létay Kiss | Eszter Sümegi
 Hector Lopez Mendoza | Walter Fraccaro | Andrea Ulbrich | Bernadett Wiedemann**

The libretto, based on the 1836 play by the Spaniard Antonio García Gutierrez, might be the most complicated story in opera literature. It could have been forgotten but for the ingenious music composed by Verdi. Four acts, eight scenes, changelings, a love triangle, a duel, a convent, an elopement, a siege, an execution and a vendetta.

16, 19, 21, 23, 28, 30 November 2014 Opera House



G. Puccini

LA BOHÈME*opera in two parts*

Conductor ► **Paolo Carignani | Péter Halász**
 Staged by after the director **Kálmán Nádasdy** ► **Sándor Palcsó**

Cast ► **Teodor Ilincăi | Attila Fekete | András Káldi Kiss | Zsolt Haja | Martin Barta
 Csaba Szegedi | Marcell Bakonyi | Miklós Sebestyén | Gabriella Létay Kiss
 Polina Pasztircsák | Bori Keszei | Zita Váradi**

This story of penniless Parisian artists and their lovers is at once sentimental and ironic, elevated and frivolous, everyday and exotic, achieving outstanding success in its time. It has not been forgotten by posterity since its 1896 premiere. A piece that has not been left out from the advent programme of the Opera since 1937.

4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 20, 26, 28 December 2014; 4, 11 January 2015 Opera House



G. Verdi

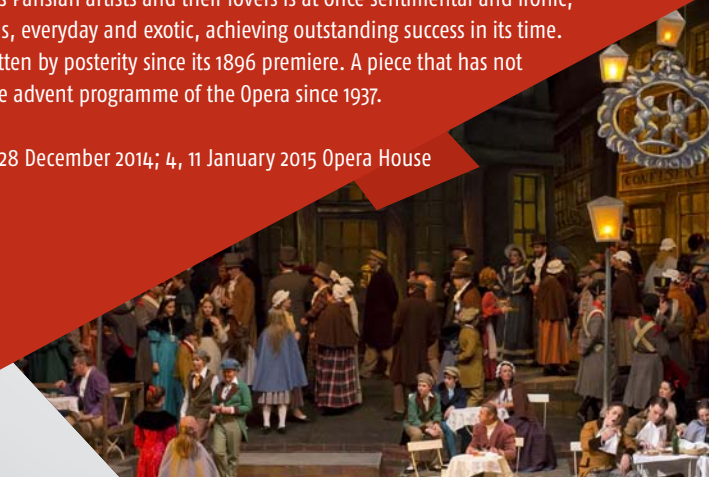
RIGOLETTO*opera in three acts*

Conductor ► **Péter Halász | Tamás Pál**
 Director ► **Mária Harangi | Miklós Szinetár**

Cast ► **Ivan Magri | Andrej Dunaev | Mihály Kálmándi | Alexandru Agache
 Erika Miklósa | Rita Rácz | Géza Gábor | Atala Schöck | Apollónia Szolnoki**

Rigoletto is the first figure on stage that cannot be described as either "positive" or "negative". He is an evolving, changing and suffering person displaying contradictory characteristics. Putting him on stage was a bold move, yet today he is part of the repertoire of every opera house in the world.

14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 27, 31 January 2015 Erkel Theatre



G. Verdi

OTELLO*opera in three acts*Conductor ► **Marco Comin**Director ► **László Vámos**Cast ► **José Cura | Marco Berti | Polina Pasztircsák | Anatolij Fokanov
Veronika Dobi-Kiss | Zoltán Nyári**

"Shakespeare is one of my favourite poets. I have had him in my hands from my earliest youth, and I read and reread him continually. I don't want to create anything which is not worthy of him," wrote Verdi in a letter to his French publisher. The elderly composer did not fail: his penultimate opera, with a libretto by Boito, has been popular ever since its premiere. Now with international guest stars in Budapest.

8, 11, 19, 21 February 2015 Opera House

R. Wagner

TANNHÄUSER*opera in three acts*Conductor ► **Pinchas Steinberg**Director ► **Miklós Szinetár**Cast ► **Péter Fried | Csilla Boross | Robert Dean Smith | Mihály Kálmándi**

In the view of the director, this work is about the clashing extreme positions that dominate the world. One extreme is Venus's world, where nothing matters but pleasure. The other one is represented by the knights' austere values. Tannhäuser and Elisabeth look for an opportunity for resolution and synthesis, but both fail because only adherents of extremism possess the power and the authority that they do not. Both female roles sung by Csilla Boross!

25, 27, 29 November; 2 December 2014 Opera House

Ch. W. Gluck – R. Strauss

IPHIGÉNIE AUF TAURIS*opera in two parts*Conductor ► **György Vashegyi**Director ► **Róbert Alföldi**Cast ► **Eszter Wierdl | Zoltán Megyesi | Zsolt Haja | Johannes von Duisburg**

Gluck's opera based on Greek mythology was tweaked by Strauss in order to make it dramaturgically tighter. The baroque strings and stylistic notes will be adapted by one of the most recognized conductors of music from this period, while the spectacle of nightmares come to life is being brought to the stage by one of Hungary's most dazzling directors.

3, 5, 9, 11, 19 October 2014 Opera House

R. Strauss

DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN*opera in three acts*Conductor ► **Péter Halász**Director ► **János Szikora**Cast ► **István Kovácsházi | Eszter Sümegi | Judit Németh | Heiko Trinsinger
Szilvia Rálik**

An enormous orchestral ensemble with glass harmonica, organ and wind and thunder machines, while up on stage two pairs of people are in search of each other. This core work of the Strauss cult made its Hungarian premiere last season.

9, 12, 15, 20 November 2014 Opera House



R. North–B. Downes / A. Bournonville–H. S. Lovenskiöld

TROY GAME / LA SYLPHIDE

TROY GAME

all-male ballet parody in one act

Choreographer ► **Robert North**

Choreographer Robert North created his ballet with the purpose of showing masculinity and the "macho spirit" in dance with a uniquely ironic view; captivated by rhythm, energy and good cheer, and diverting from traditions, he provides an opportunity for the male dancers of our era to show their talents.

LA SYLPHIDE

romantic ballet in two acts

Conductor ► **András Déri | Gergely Kesselyák**
Staged by after **August Bournonville** ► **Maina Gielgud**

Behind this tale set in Scotland, which looks so innocent at first sight, deeper human desires are in motion. And what more fitting as the focus than the struggle of a man? In choosing between reality and the intangible and idealised female figure: of course the latter prevails. What can be the outcome of such love? One of them must inevitably fall...

11, 12, 14, 17, 19, 20 September 2014 Opera House



R. Hynd–F. Lehár

THE MERRY WIDOW

comic ballet in three acts

Conductor ► **István Silló | Kálmán Szennai**
Choreographer ► **Ronald Hynd**

Lehár's popular classic made it to Hungary in its ballet version for the first time last year. With its various elements building on a classical base together with the humorous elements arising from the choreographer's own outlook and personality, it can best be classified as a "comic ballet".

3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 15, 18 and 19 October 2014 Erkel Theatre

Gy. Harangozó–L. Delibes

COPPELIA

comic dance in three acts

Conductor ► **László Kovács**
Choreographer ► **Gyula Harangozó**

Revealing session of couples' therapy centring around a bell inauguration ceremony. Title Character nearly wins high-stepping girl's affection, as a result of which the entire cast winds up in the same room. Everybody in secret, from somewhere else, for different reasons – except that one of them – Title Character herself – isn't real. She's a doll who stirred up the small town. Wedding bells are going to ring.

30, 31 October; 2, 5, 6, 8 November 2014 Opera House



L. Seregi–L. Delibes

SYLVIA

comic ballet in two acts

Conductor ► **Péter Oberfrank | Imre Kollár**
Choreographer ► **László Seregi**

Bucolic transubstantiation of a ballet rehearsal, as a result of which everyone wants something other than what would be best for them. But only Eros really knows what is best for anyone...

23, 27, 28, 30, 31 May 2015 Erkel Theatre

BALLET REPERTOIRE

J. Cranko—K. H. Stolze—P. I. Tchaikovsky

ONEGIN

ballet in three acts

Conductor ► **István Silló | Károly Szennai**

Choreographer ► **John Cranko**



Cranko's classical ballet shows brilliantly that Pushkin's novel in verse is a gem of world literature which depicts eternally universal human relationships and situations:

*"You I await: With a single glance I revive the hope that's in my heart,
Cut short this heavy dream I cherish, / Deserving, I know, reproach and scorn."* (Pushkin)

15, 17, 21, 23, 24, 25 January 2015 Opera House



B. Eifman—S. Rachmaninoff—M. Mussorgsky—R. Wagner

THE KARAMAZOVs

ballet in two acts

Conductor ► **Ádám Medveczky**

Choreographer ► **Boris Eifman**



Dostoyevsky's final novel was turned into an all-night choreography by Boris Eifman. With extraordinary visuals, the ballet tells what the writer thought but never put down in writing. Nations and religions are in continuous conflict around the world, but there is a common force, whether we call it God or anything else, which belongs to all of us.

19, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28 June 2015 Erkel Theatre

