

OPERA

MAGYAR ÁLLAMI OPERAHÁZ
HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA



SEASON PREVIEW

THE SEASON IN FIGURES

7 premieres (3 full-length, 2 one acts, 2 children's productions)

230 opera performances

37 opera titles

130 ballet performances

16 ballet titles

36 concerts, oratorios, galas, and recitals

25 types of children's and youth programmes

30 performances by the Children's Chorus and the Ballet Institute

300 performances at the Opera House

85 performances at the Eiffel Art Studios

30 tour and guest performances



Will a great conductor from **Bulgaria, Hungary, or Wales** come to conduct?

Will works by composers from cities like **Budapest, Madrid, or Windsor** be performed?

Will pieces inspired by the paintings of **Botticelli, Monet, or Watteau** take the stage?

Well, any trio could serve as the theme of the 2025/26 season of the Hungarian State Opera, but this time we are focusing on three composer giants, exploring their oeuvres – or at least segments of them – throughout the season, alongside many other new specialties and classic repertoire pieces. This season will revolve around **Beethoven, Mozart, and Wagner!**

Alongside the works of these three composers (*Fidelio, Don Giovanni, Parsifal*, etc.), audiences will also enjoy a wide range of exciting opera and ballet performances (*La bohème, Swan Lake*, etc.), concerts, and educational programmes. As always, the season will offer a wide selection – from Baroque (*Matthäus-Passion*) to contemporary (*Valuska*), from intimate chamber evenings to monumental concerts (*Symphony of a Thousand*) – ensuring that everyone can find something that suits their taste, mood, curiosity, and age, for themselves and their families.



PREMIERES

The 2025/26 season promises exciting premieres of well-known works. In accordance with the theme of the season, a Beethoven, a Mozart, and a Wagner premiere will await the audience.

Fidelio will be a special production, licensed from London's Royal Ballet and Opera, directed by Tobias Kratzer, who blends traditional and modern stage language. **Così fan tutte** will be directed by Kriszta Székely at the Eiffel Art Studios, known to audiences from her earlier production of *Les contes d'Hoffmann*. The story of **Lohengrin**, the mysterious knight, will come to life in a vision by András Almási-Tóth, combining romance with a futuristic, steampunk, cinematic world.

Two one-act world premieres will be performed on the same evening: János Vajda's opera **The Verdict**, based on a novella by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, and György Selmeczi's **Royal Highness**, inspired by a work of Thomas Mann. Meanwhile, the Hungarian State Opera is preparing a new fairy-tale production for children: the third pillar of contemporary premieres will be Péter Tóth's emotionally rich opera **The Beauty and the Beast**. For young children wishing to discover the world of ballet, the next instalment in the "Little" series will be **Little Coppélia**, a child-friendly adaptation of *Coppélia*.



Ludwig van Beethoven **FIDELIO**

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
COSÌ FAN TUTTE



Richard Wagner **LOHENGRIN**

János Vajda **THE VERDICT**
(world premiere)

György Selmeczi **ROYAL HIGHNESS**
(world premiere)



Tóth Péter
THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
(world premiere)

Dace Radina / Léo Delibes
LITTLE COPPÉLIA
(world premiere)



Repertoire OPERA HOUSE

In the 2025/26 season, the Hungarian State Opera repertoire will once again include unmissable classics such as *Tosca* and *Aida*, as well as Hungarian operas like *Bánk Bán*. There will also be special productions returning to the stage, such as *Stephen, the King*, which can almost be considered a classic by now, yet remains contemporary thanks to Levente Gyöngyösi's symphonic orchestration of the rock opera by Szörényi and Bródy. Among the ballets, classical pieces like *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Nutcracker*, and *Swan Lake* will be featured, while more modern one-act ballets are now also essential parts of the ballet genre, including *Walking Mad*, *Cacti*, and *Sad Case*, all performed in a single evening.

There will also be numerous productions aimed at young audiences, such as Donizetti's *Il campanello* and Britten's *The Little Sweep*.

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STEPHEN, THE KING
BÁNK BÁN (THE VICEROY BÁNK)
ARTABAN

AIDA
MACBETH
RIGOLETTO
LA TRAVIATA
REQUIEM
L'ITALIANA IN ALGERI
DON GIOVANNI
LE NOZZE DI FIGARO
DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE
PARSIFAL
LA BOHÈME
SCHICCHI 2.0
TURANDOT
TOSCA
MADAMA BUTTERFLY
LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR
CARMINA BURANA

SWAN LAKE
THE SLEEPING BEAUTY
THE NUTCRACKER
ROMEO AND JULIET
ONEGIN

WALKING MAD
CACTI
SAD CASE
TROIS GNOSSIENNES
WHIRLING
PETITE MORT
SIX DANCES

DER SCHAUSPIELDIREKTOR
BASTIEN UND BASTIENNE
THE TELEPHONE
THE STUBBORN PRINCESS
IL CAMPANELLO
HUNGARIAN CHRISTMAS
THE LITTLE SWEEP
LITTLE SWAN LAKE

Repertoire EIFFEL ART STUDIOS

The Eiffel Art Studios – a venue that is at once an intimate, smaller, and more human-centred, yet also more modern and experimental – will again offer enticing special productions in its 2025/26 season repertoire. Expanding the Opera House's Mozart selection, the recent production of *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* will be performed, as well as *L'oca del Cairo, ossia Lo sposo deluso*, a pasticcio opera created from two fragments. Fans of contemporary works can look forward to modern ballet choreographies at the Bánffy Stage, including the dance drama *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Additionally, Péter Eötvös's final opera, *Valuska*, his only work written in Hungarian, which won the Best World Premiere award at the 2024 International Opera Awards will be revived. Children's and youth performances will also be featured, such as *The Magic Flute for Children* and *Little Sleeping Beauty*.

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VALUSKA

L'OCA DEL CAIRO, OSSIA LO SPOSO DELUSO
DIE ENTFÜHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE
WALKING MAD
CACTI
SAD CASE

THE MAGIC FLUTE FOR CHILDREN
LITTLE SLEEPING BEAUTY
LITTLE SWAN LAKE
STEPHEN, THE KING (JUNIOR)



TOURS AND GUEST PERFORMANCES

The Hungarian State Opera is not only an institution important for Budapest's cultural life, but it also plays a significant role in showcasing its performances in as many locations as possible over the years by touring Hungary – and even the world – and establishing numerous partnership connections. In the 2025/26 season, the company will also visit the now-traditional **Balatonfüred**, where during a long weekend at the end of July the OPERA Orchestra and Chorus will give concerts, and at the Anna Ball the Hungarian National Ballet will perform.

However, the ensembles of the OPERA won't stop there. They will even travel to Dubai, where they will provide a guaranteed memorable experience with three productions: a Beethoven concert (featuring the overture of *König Stephan*, *Piano Concerto No. 5*, and *Symphony No. 5*), as well as an opera (*La bohème*) and a ballet performance (*Swan Lake*). Then, in 2026, a tour to **Japan** is also planned, where *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Die Zauberflöte* will be on the programme, while the ballet company's collaboration will continue in Bogotá, and, according to the plans, the audience in **Venice** will enjoy our production of *The Nutcracker*.



STARS OF THE SEASON

In its 2025/26 season, OPERA will organize the song and aria recital series *Stars' Recitals with Piano* for the fourth time. Internationally renowned vocal artists will delight the Budapest audience, including baritones **Ludovic Tézier** and **Michael Volle**, soprano **Asmik Grigorian**, mezzo-soprano **Aigul Akhmetshina** (arriving with tenor **Long Long**) as well as soprano **Nadine Sierra** and tenor **Freddie De Tommaso**.

Outstanding Hungarian soloist, who appear in numerous opera productions, will also shine as soloists in various concerts. The *Prima Donnas* series will continue – this time expanded with “two heroes,” i.e. two male singers. As part of the concert series, audiences will hear, among others, **Klára Kolonits**, **Ildikó Komlósi**, **Gyöngyi Lukács**, **Erika Miklósa**, **Ilona Tokody**, as well as **Gábor Bretz** and **Mihály Kálmándy**.

A concert series that began this year will also continue in the new season, titled *Return Victorious!* featuring such Kossuth Prize-winning artists as **Dénes Gulyás**, **Kolos Kovács**, **Eszter Sümegi**, and our newest Kossuth Prize laureate, **Péter Fried**. The premiere of *Lohengrin* will boast a star-studded cast including **Christopher Sokolowski**, **Derek Welton**, **Johanni van Oostrum**, and **Egils Siliņš**. **Vassilis Kavayas** will appear in the production of *L'italiana in Algeri*, the Armenian **Gosh Sargsyan** will sing the bass solo in Verdi's *Requiem*, **Pavel Černoč** will take on the role of Florestan in the new production of *Fidelio*, and **Anna Netrebko** will return as Lady Macbeth.

DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS OF THE SEASON

New season, new and returning productions, new and returning directors. No season can pass without the current artistic director staging a production. After (and alongside) his Parsifal from a few years ago, **András Almási-Tóth** will now present another Wagner masterpiece, *Lohengrin*. Some may remember the highly successful *The Yellow Prince(ss)* from 2015, followed by *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, directed by **Kriszta Székely** from the Katona József Theatre. This year, she will stage Mozart's *Così fan tutte* in the intimate setting of the Eiffel Art Studios. Finally, a real treat in terms of premieres: the London production of *Fidelio* by **Tobias Kratzer**, who will become director of the Hamburg Opera starting from the 2025/26 season, will now be seen on the stage of the Hungarian State Opera.

Several earlier productions by Máté Szabó will also be presented (*Lucia di Lammermoor*, *L'italiana in Algeri*, *Der Schauspieldirektor*), alongside new works, specifically contemporary operas: one-act pieces by György Selmeczi and János Vajda. Beside **Claus Guth's** *Don Giovanni*, which has toured the world, *La bohème* in the version staged by **Kálmán Nádasdy** will soon celebrate its ninth decade of performance. Ever-present director **Miklós Szinetár's** productions will also return to the stage, as well as *Tosca*, staged by the OPERA's general director, **Szilveszter Ókovács**. Among the choreographers-directors of the ballets – and even operas – we will also see works by internationally renowned figures such as **John Cranko**, **Jiří Kylián**, **Hans van Manen**, and **Rudi van Dantzig**, while among Hungarian choreographies, works by **Tamás Solymosi** and the unforgettable **László Seregi** will also be performed.

CONDUCTORS OF THE SEASON

István Dénes, Péter Halász, Gergely Kesselyák, János Kovács, Gergely Madaras, Martin Rajna, Kálmán Szennai, Sámuel Csaba Tóth, Levente Török, Gergely Vajda... and the list could go on of those Hungarian conductors – truly emblematic figures – without whom there could be no season at the Hungarian State Opera, and who guarantee the quality and standard of the productions, operas, ballets, and even monumental symphonic concerts. Yet the 2025/26 theatre season also boasts international conductors.

In the realm of ballet performance, Budapest audiences have already seen **Paul Connelly** and **David Coleman** conduct: the former returns for *Onegin*, the latter for *The Sleeping Beauty*. Also coming to Budapest are **Constantin Trinks** (*Parsifal*) and **Jiří Habart** (*Requiem*). Among the concerts, **János Kovács** will conduct Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* ("Symphony of a Thousand") and *Bluebeard's Castle*, Péter Halász will conduct the symphonic concerts *Golden Age: Wagner* and *Golden Age: Mozart*, while István Dénes and Gergely Madaras will take the podium for *Best of Puccini*.

The OPERA's principal conductor, Martin Rajna – praised by international critics – though set to become music director of the Luxembourg Philharmonic from the autumn of 2026, will gladly continue in his position at the Budapest Opera. In addition to conducting several repertoire productions and the new *Lohengrin* premiere, he will also conduct the *Golden Age: Beethoven* concert.

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMES

The OPERA feels an increasing need to create programmes for children, young audiences, and even families. Accordingly, the upcoming season will offer numerous opportunities for entertainment, initiation, and carefree learning, aiming to introduce young people to the magical world of classical music – opera and ballet. A gap-filling opera will be presented: Péter Tóth's *The Beauty and the Beast*, which is not only a fairy tale for children but also a work performed partly by children themselves. The Hungarian National Ballet Institute will stage its fourth independent production with *Little Coppélia*, bringing to life the story of Master Coppélius, the doll he creates, and a young couple in love. The tale of *Coppélia* is particularly exciting for today's children, whose thinking is strongly shaped by machines and the illusions created through technology.

Secondary school students will have the chance to experience contemporary ballet in the performance *Timeless Contemporary Adventure*, where modern dance language helps them explore messages that reach deep into the soul, while also seeing classical movements interwoven with almost acrobatic elements. Among recently premiered performances, Donizetti's *Il campanello*, Britten's *The Little Sweep*, and Mozart's *Bastien und Bastienne*, the latter performed alongside Menotti's *The Telephone* will continue to be on the programme. During the Advent season, the production *Hungarian Christmas*, created based on Jenő Ádám's work and complemented by compositions from Miklós Kocsár, will also return.

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THE LITTLE SWEEP	LITTLE COPPÉLIA
HUNGARIAN CHRISTMAS	LITTLE SLEEPING BEAUTY
THE MAGIC FLUTE FOR CHILDREN	LITTLE SWAN LAKE
BASTIEN UND BASTIENNE	
THE TELEPHONE	TIMELESS CONTEMPORARY
SCHICCHI 2.0	ADVENTURE:
IL CAMPANELLO	WHIRLING
DER SCHAUSPIELDIREKTOR	PETITE MORT
STEPHEN, THE KING (JUNIOR)	SIX DANCES

BEETHOVEN-MOZART-WAGNER

Operas, ballets, concerts throughout the season

BEETHOVEN

Fidelio – new production
Symphony No. 5, Op. 67
Symphony No. 7, Op. 92
Symphony No. 9, Op. 125
Piano Concerto No. 5, Op. 73
König Stephan – overture
Egmont Overture, Op. 84
An die ferne Geliebte, Op. 98
Gellert Lieder, Op. 48

MOZART

Così fan tutte – new production
Don Giovanni
Le nozze di Figaro
Die Entführung aus dem Serail
Die Zauberflöte
The Magic Flute for Children
Der Schauspieldirektor
Bastien und Bastienne
L'oca del Cairo, ossia Lo sposo deluso
Idomeneo (screening)
Messiah (Händel-Mozart)
Six Dances
Piano Concerto No. 21 – Andante, K. 467
Piano Concerto No. 23 – Adagio, K. 488
Piano Concerto No. 24, K. 491
Sinfonia Concertante, K. 297b
Symphony No. 35 (“Haffner”), K. 385
Ganz kleine Nachtmusik, K. 648 – Hungarian premiere
Songs

WAGNER

Lohengrin – new production
Parsifal
Tannhäuser – overture and excerpts
Das Rheingold – Entry of the Gods into Valhalla
Die Walküre – Act I
Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg – overture
Wesendonck-Lieder
Songs

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND TICKETS FOR THE 2025/26 SEASON

New subscriptions are available until **30 June 2025** at the Opera House and 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 **20 May 2025**.

Further information: ticket@opera.hu

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