

MAGYAR ÁLLAMI OPERAHÁZ HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA

#### FAUST225 FESTIVAL

20

### Premieres in 2014/15

### May celebration

166

Similar to 2014 when the Strauss150 Festival crowned our 130<sup>th</sup> season, the Faust225 Festival aims to present the most concentrated event of this season on the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first publication of Goethe's *Faust – A Fragment*. Five brilliant pieces built on the topic of Faust can be heard (among them the premiere of Gounod's opera and the Hungarian premiere of Busoni's work), with a rarity concert by the Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra to conclude the series that spans over two weeks featuring world-wide acclaimed Hungarian singers and international guest stars. All the performances of the series that could be dubbed as "Devil's Festival" for the eternal interdependence of Faust and Mephisto can be seen at the Opera House.

#### FAUST225 FESTIVAL

Charles Gounod

## Faust

#### Opera in three acts

Conductor | **Maurizio Benini** Set designer | **Luigi Scoglio** Costume designer | **Ana Ramos Aguayo** Director | **Michał Znaniecki** 

Cast ► Dario Schmunk, Gábor Bretz, Andrea Rost, Zsolt Haja, Lajos Geiger, Szilvia Vörös, Bernadett Wiedemann

Many composers have been "tempted" by the Devil in the past 250 years but the most outstanding operatic adaptation is Gounod's French grand opera, which is based on Goethe's *Faust – The First Part of the Tragedy*. Romanticism, elements of horror and gothic motifs add a taste to this perfumed, smoky drama, a story of romance, temptation, and the eternal fight between religion and satanic forces. Our 2015 production introduces the May celebration festival of our Faust season.

17, 19, 21, 23, 26, 31 MAY 2015 OPERA HOUSE

Igor Stravinsky

### The Rake's Progress

#### Opera in three acts

Conductor | Erik Nielsen Dramaturg | Judit Kenesey Visual design | Gergely Zöldy Z Director | Ferenc Anger

Cast: András Palerdi, Eleanor Lyons, Péter Balczó, Péter Kálmán, Dávid Szigetvári

What makes us happy? What desires do we have? What price do we have to pay? Tom Rakewell sells his soul to the Devil unwittingly. Eventually he gets disgusted by his pleasure-seeking lifestyle, he goes crazy and gets into a madhouse. The rake's progress is a downfall with a game of cards at the end with his salvation at stake. It is a reversed evolution, a parable about the loss of innocence. Part black comedy, part obituary.

16, 20 MAY 2015 OPERA HOUSE (PREMIERE: 18 JANUARY)

### Carl Maria von Weber

### Der Freischütz

#### Opera in three acts

Conductor | **Péter Halász** Dramaturg | **Júlia Ungár** Set designer | **Mária Ambrus** Costume designer | **Mari Benedek** Director | **Sándor Zsótér** 

Cast ► István Rácz, Beatrix Fodor, Rita Rácz, Krisztián Cser, Attila Fekete, István Berczelly, Péter Kiss

The Book of Ghosts opens and magic bullets roll out of it. They roll through the mysterious forests of Bohemia until they reach the Wolf's Glen. A milky light from the Moon falls onto the grass, drops of blood twinkle on the spider's web. Gruesome things are about to happen. The normal way of the huntsmen is disturbed by demonic forces. The hunter's bride gets a funeral wreath. Beater 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.

27, 29 MAY 2015 OPERA HOUSE (PREMIERE: 14 DECEMBER 2014)

FAUST225 FESTIVAL

#### Ferruccio Benvenuto Busoni

# Faust Faust

Hungarian premiere Semi-staged performance

Conductor | Gergely Vajda Revised version | Sir Adrian Boult, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau Director | Máté Szabó

The play tells the tragic tale of the most famous scientist of world literature in two prologues, an intermezzo and three scenes. The folk are singing the Credo at the dawn of Easter while Faust signs the contract with Mephistopheles in his own blood. He first seduces Gretchen, then the Duchess of Parma. He conjures Biblical figures, is responsible for the death of a soldier, he abandons the Duchess and their child, and he sees Helen of Troy emerge from the flames. Faust closes the book of magic. He should say a prayer but no words come to his lips. Is one good deed enough to receive absolution? There is still a little time left until midnight...

22, 24 MAY 2014 OPERA HOUSE

### Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra concert

Robert Schumann

Szenen aus Goethes Faust Scenes from Goethe's Faust

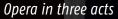
Conductor | Michael Schønwandt

Featuring ► Jörg Schneider – tenor, Péter Fried – bass, Jochen Kupfer – bariton, the Hungarian State Opera Choir (Choirmaster: Máté Szabó Sipos), the Hungarian State Opera Children's Choir (Choirmaster: Gyöngyvér Gupcsó)

I JUNE 2015 OPERA HOUSE

From the repertoire:

### Arrigo Boito Mefistofele



Conductor | **Carlo Montanaro** Choreography | **Marianna Venekei** Set designer | **Csaba Antal** Costume designer | **Mari Benedek** Director | **Balázs Kovalik** 

Cast ► András Palerdi, Gabriella Létay Kiss, Dániel Vadász, Erika Markovics

"The greatest of mysteries is not that coincidence threw man somewhere in the middle of the material and the cosmos of stars, but the fact that in this confinement we have aroused ideas in our minds which are grand enough to question that our life is nothing."

(Béla Hamvas)

28, 30 MAY 2015 OPERA HOUSE

### Programme of the Faust225 Festival

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Gounod Faust (17, 19, 21, 23, 26, 31 May) Conductor ► Maurizio Benini

Stravinsky The Rake's Progress (16, 20 May) Conductor ► Erik Nielsen

Busoni Doktor Faust (22, 24 May) Conductor ► Gergely Vajda

Weber Der Freischütz (27, 29 May) Conductor ► Péter Halász

Boito Mefistofele (28, 30 May) Conductor ► Carlo Montanaro

#### Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra Concert

Schumann

Szenen aus Goethes Faust (*1 June*) Conductor > Michael Schønwandt

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