



53



Republic of North Macedonia
Ministry of Culture and Tourism

MAY OPERA EVENINGS

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53



MAY OPERA EVENINGS

PROGRAMME

May 9 - 31, 2025

9.5.2025 - 8:00 PM

“RIGOLETTO” – GIUSEPPE VERDI (PREMIERE - OPERA)

15.5.2025 – 8:00 PM

“SWAN LAKE” - P.I. TCHAIKOVSKY (BALLET)

19.5.2025 – 8:00 PM

“NABUCCO” – GIUSEPPE VERDI (OPERA)

23.5.2025 - 8:00 PM

“MADAMA BUTTERFLY” – GIACOMO PUCCINI (OPERA)

27.5.2025 – 8:00 PM

“TURANDOT” – GIACOMO PUCCINI (OPERA)

31.5.2025 – 8:00 PM

“AIDA” - GIUSEPPE VERDI (OPERA)



Dear Art Lovers,

It is my honour and pleasure, on behalf of the National Opera and Ballet, to invite you to the 53 May Opera Evenings, that will take place from May 9 - May 31, 2025.

Each year we are striving to present compelling and exclusive performances and I am confident that 53rd edition will satisfy even the most demanding artistic standards.

The May Opera Evenings 2025 are promising a rich artistic experience, that combines tradition and innovation, domestic and international creativity.

The opening ceremony will start on May 9, at 8:00 pm with the premiere performance of "Rigoletto" by Giuseppe Verdi, one of his most powerful works which combines themes such as love, power and revenge through strong musical and stage interpretation.

On May 15 at 8:00 pm, we will once again enjoy the timeless beauty of the ballet "Swan Lake" by P.I. Tchaikovsky, a masterpiece through which a story of love and destiny is told.

On May 19 at 8:00 pm, the audience will have the opportunity to watch Verdi's monumental opera, "Nabucco", known for the chorus "Va, pensiero" - a hymn to freedom and the strength of the spirit.

The emotional story of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" will be performed on May 23 at 8:00 pm, depicting the fate of a young geisha through unforgettable melodies and deep emotions.

Giacomo Puccini's lavish opera "Turandot", including the famous aria "Nessun dorma", is scheduled for May 27 at 8:00 pm, bringing a story of love, pride and redemption.

At the end of the May Opera Evenings, on May 31st at 8:00 pm, the Verdi's magnificent opera Aida will be performed.

I would like to invite you to participate to this magnificent Festival, to enjoy the music, dance and the unique emotions that only the May Opera Evenings have brought for more than half a century.

I am looking forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Oliver Arsovski

General Manager, National Opera and Ballet



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MAY OPERA EVENINGS

RIGOLETTO GIUSEPPE VERDI

PREMIERE

OPENING CEREMONY

May 9, 8:00pm

Conductor: Gianluca Martinenghi (Italy)
Director: Pier Francesco Maestrini (Italy)
Assistant Directors: Trajko Jordanovski,
Ljupka Jakimovska
Scenographer: Guillermo Nova (Italy)
Costume Designer: Cristina Accetti (Italy)
Assistant Costume Designer: Angela
Bogevska
Concertmaster: Kliment Todoroski
Assistant Choirmasters: Jasmina Gjorgjeska,
Gjurgjca Dashikj
Choreographer: Sasha Eftimova
Repetiteurs: Elena Siljanoska, Janinka
Nevcheva, Andreja Naunov
Stagehands: Dragan Kostadinovikj, Marko
Pavlevski, Katerina Boshkovska
Prompter: Nevena Georgieva

PERFORMING:

Rigoletto: Leon Kim (Korea)
Gilda: Ana Durlovski
Duke of Mantua: Mario Bahg (South Korea)
Sparafucile: Igor Durlovski
Maddalena: Nikolina Janevska
Count Monterone: Vladimir Sazdovski
Marullo: Dragan Ampov
Borsa: Jane Dunimagloski
Countess Ceprano: Aleksandra Lazarovska
Vasilevski
Count Ceprano / Officer: Dime Petrov
Giovanna: Marika Popovikj
A Page: Desanka Gligorijevikj

Choir and Orchestra of the National Opera
and Ballet

May 9, 8:00 pm

RIGOLETTO

GIUSEPPE VERDI (OPERA - PREMIERE)



Synopsis:

Mantua and its surroundings, 16th century...

The opera depicts a sensitive story of a wounded father's heart – the grave misfortune of the hunchbacked old man Rigoletto, who is forced to play a double game: a court jester who needs to entertain his depraved master, the Duke of Mantua, versus a caring father who wants to protect his daughter Gilda from the low passions of society.

Verdi portrays the contrasts of the characters very suggestively and convincingly, with rich melodies, with sincere and gentle colors, which move from elegiac and pathetic (in the portrayal of Gilda), through clearly expressed liveliness and seductiveness (in the portrayal of the Duke), all the way to difficult spiritual struggles and pains (expressed in the character of Rigoletto) and a dark depiction of the underworld (through the portrayal of the murderers Sparafucile and Maddalena).

May 9, 8:00 pm

RIGOLETTO

GIUSEPPE VERDI (OPERA - PREMIERE)

CHIEF CONDUCTOR AT NATIONAL OPERA AND BALLET

GIANLUCA MARTINENGI, CONDUCTOR

Gianluca Martinengi studied piano and composition, and later on, he began studying orchestral conducting. His carrier as a conductor started in 1994 with the prestigious Orchestra of Teatro Massimo di PalermoIn that same period, he collaborated with important musicians as Vladimir Ashkenazy, Rudolf Barshai, and Bruno Campanella.

He was invited to conduct concerts with orchestras of absolute international prestige, allowing him to face the great symphonic repertoire, like the Münchner Rundfunkorchester, l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, l'Orchestre Philharmonique de Montecarlo, the National Hungarian Filarmomic Orchestra, l'Orquesta del Teatro Colon de Buenos Aires, l'Orquesta Sinfonica of Tenerife, l'Orquesta Sinfonica de Malaga, l'Orchestra Toscanini di Parma, l'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and many others.

As an operatic conductor, he had the pleasure to work in great theatres and has at the moment more than 50 titles in his repertoire. The most important are Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Arena di Verona, Teatro Bellini di Catania, Deutsche Oper Berlin, NCPA Beijing, Seoul Opera Center, Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, Teatro Lirico di Cagliari, Teatro Donizetti di Bergamo, Teatro Pavarotti di Modena, Opera Ireland, Palm Beach Opera, Teatro Goldoni di Livorno, Teatro Verdi di Pisa, Teatro Regio di Parma, Sydney Opera House etc.

He was also Vice Director of the Teatro Massimo di Palermo, Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and Teatro Regio di Torino: these experiences allowed him to collaborate with some of the greatest international musicians such as Zubin Mehta, Claudio Abbado, Riccardo Muti, Seiji Ozawa, and many others. He was nominated Principal Guest Conductor to the Tenerife Opera Festival in the period included between 2009/2011 and Chief Conductor of Macedonian Opera Theatre from 2016 until 2018.



PIER FRANCESCO MAESTRINI, DIRECTOR

Born in Firenze, Italian opera director Pier Francesco Maestrini started his career in 1993, at Tokyo's Bunkamura Orchard Hall, with Rossini's masterpiece *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. By then, he staged over 100 Opera productions in Italy and around the world, from baroque repertoire to Italian verismo.

In 2016, Maestrini opened Cagliari's opera season with *La Campana Sommersa*, (The Sunken Bell) a masterpiece by Respighi practically forgotten during last century, claiming immediate success and generating large interest around the opera world with excellent reviews, receiving the cover of *l'Opera Magazine*.

In 2015 he worked twice in Verona for two acclaimed productions: *La Forza del Destino* in December and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in April, improving the interaction among cartoons and real characters in a surprising show that will be revived in New York at the NYCOpera Renaissance next year. Also in 2015, he staged a new production of *Elisir d'amore* in Beijing at the magnificent National Centre of Performing Arts, where he previously performed *Don Pasquale* in October 2014 and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in 2013.

In 2014 he was in Cagliari *Turandot*, with the sets inspired on the artwork of the worldwide acclaimed sculptor Pinuccio Sciola. The Teatro Lirico achieved the highest number of viewers in its entire history.



CRISTINA ACETI, COSTUME DESIGNER

Born in 1976, Cristina Aceti is an Italian artist who has worked for over twenty years in the international theatre scene, both as a set and costume designer for theatre production and as a responsible for tailoring laboratories.

She graduated as set designer at Brera Belle Arti Academy in Milan in 1999 and in the same year, she won the competition for the Set and costume designer workshop at Teatro alla Scala in Milan, where she worked for two years: here, she was able to further develop her skills and knowledge in costume design and expand her formation to set design and sculpture. Furthermore, as a fashion photographer and sculptor, she designed settings for renowned venues.

Since its beginning, her career has had an international dimension, with strong links to European opera, working on praised productions in theatres such as the Opera National Theatres in Zagreb (Croatia), Potsdam Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam (Germany) and Geneva.

From 2004 until 2006, she was responsible for costumes for the Donizetti theatre's tour in Japan.

She has regular collaborations with the Opera project of the Academy Art, Music and Ballet Universitet Stavanger, Norway.

Her career is characterized by a strong international vocation and her experience with production all over the world has led to a profound understanding of production management. Her work, enriched by the knowledge of several fabric and material craftsmanship techniques, stands out for the conjugation of creativity, artistry and attention to historical accuracy.



GUILLERMO NOVA, SCENOGRAPHER

Guillermo Nova studied art history and technical drawing at the Santo Domingo Art School and earned a degree in digital post-production and 3-D projection from the Trazos School of Digital Arts in Madrid. After early work at Teatro Real, Madrid, he collaborated with leading theatres worldwide: Faust at Teatro Regio di Parma, Tosca, The Barber of Seville and La Traviata at the Arena di Verona; La Bohème at Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires; and served as technical director of São Paulo's municipal theatre, where he twice won Brazil's Best Set Design award for Don Giovanni and Manon Lescaut. He has created notable ballet sets, including Giselle in Trieste, La Bayadère in Rome, Le Corsaire and Don Quixote in Maribor, and Swan Lake for the Latvian National Opera and Ballet. His recent opera projects include La forza del destino (Teatro Filarmonico, Verona), L'elisir d'amore, La fille du régiment, and Rigoletto in Cagliari and Hong Kong.



LEON KIM, BARITONE

Leon Kim specialized at the Conservatory "L. Cherubini" in Florence and is now attending the Accademia at the Opera in Florence, where he will be engaged in several productions as soloist. Mr. Kim was finalist at the 2016 International Contest "Francisco Viñas" and made his operatic debut in Korea singing in the productions of Rigoletto and Don Giovanni (Masetto). He made his debut in I Masnadieri (Francesco) at the Festival Verdi in Busseto (Parma).



ANA DURLOVSKI, SOPRANO

25 YEARS OF ARTISTIC ACTIVITY

The Macedonian-born soprano Ana Durlovski studied at the Music Academy of Skopje and made her debut at the Macedonian Opera in Skopje as Lucia in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, followed by productions and performances in opera houses in Serbia, Bosnia, Croatia and Albania.

2006 Ana Durlovski was invited to make her debut at the Vienna State Opera, as Königin der Nacht in *Zauberflöte*, a role she also performed at the Bavarian State Opera, the Berlin State Opera and the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

From 2006 to 2011 Ana Durlovski was a member of the opera company of the Staatstheater Mainz. Major roles there: Lucia (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Sophie (*Rosenkavalier*), Musetta (*La bohème*), Manon (*Manon*).

In 2011 Ana Durlovski joined the opera ensemble of the Staatsoper Stuttgart.

Her interpretation of the title role in the new production of *La sonnambula* in 2012 was much acclaimed both by critics and the audience. Further important roles in Stuttgart: Morgana (*Alcina*), Folie (*Platée*), Soeur Constance (*Dialogues des Carmélites*), Zerbinetta (*Ariadne*), Violetta (*La traviata*), Olympia (*Les Comtes d'Hoffmann*), Elvira (*I puritani*), Norina (*Don Pasquale*).

In Madrid she sang Rosina (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Olympia and Königin der Nacht.

At the New York MET Ana Durlovski made her debut as Königin der Nacht in 2014. With this role she was also invited to the Bavarian State Opera, to Baden-Baden (with Sir Simon Rattle), to Madrid, Dresden, Berlin (State Opera) and to the Bregenz Festival. In Dresden she furthermore appeared as Gilda (*Rigoletto*).

In Bayreuth the artist performed Waldvogel in *Siegfried* (2016, 2017).

Other very successful projects include new productions of *Lucia di Lammermoor* in Graz (2019) and *Les Huguenots* (Marguerite) in Geneva 2020 as well as her debut in the title role of Handel's Alcina at the Opéra national du Rhin in Strasbourg in 2021 and the role of the Nightingale in Braunsfels' *Die Vögel* at the opera house in Cologne. Recently she appeared as Marguerite (*Les Huguenots*) at the Nationaltheater Mannheim, in the title roles of Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Hamburg State Opera and of Handel's *Alcina* at the State Theater in Darmstadt. Projects of the 2024/25 season include Donna Anna in a new production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the Theater Bielefeld and again *Alcina* in Darmstadt.

Ana Durlovski also performs regularly in concerts and recitals. She is a member of the ensemble "Alea" for New Music.

MARIO BAGH , TENOR

South-Korean tenor Mario Bahk earned his bachelor's degree from Korea National University of Arts, where he first sang the Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto*, and his master's at the Mannheim University of Music and Performing Arts.

He has appeared as soloist in Haydn's Creation, Bach's Christmas Oratorio, and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, and has sung gala concerts in Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre and Verdi's Requiem with the Bergen Symphony at Norway's Kirsten Flagstad Festival. Competition victories include First Prize at the 2018 Montreal International Music Competition, the 2017 Queen Sonja Competition, and the 2016 "Città di Alcamo".

Recent engagements feature the title role in Gounod's Faust in Cologne and Lisbon.



IGOR DURLOVSKI, BASS

Durlovski was born in Bitola (Republic of Macedonia) in 1977. He graduated from the Faculty of Music Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje and finished his Master degree with the highest grade "Cum Laude". Durlovski debuted in 1999 at the Macedonian Opera where he has participated in more than 20 premiere productions. His international debut was at the Wiener Kammeroper as Nonacourt in Nino Rota's *Il cappello di Paglia di Firenze*, followed by the roles of Pluto in "*Ballo delle Ingrate*" and Plutone in "*Euridice*". In the 2009-2011 seasons he performed in numerous productions at the Staatstheater Kassel. In 2013 debuted at the Leipziger Opera as Groma/FeenKönig in Wagners "*Die Feen*", also performed at the Bayreuth Festspiele. In 2014 he debuted at the Linzer Landestheater with Sarastro in a new production of "*Die Zauberflöte*". In 2015 at the Staatstheater Stuttgart as Aniceto in "*Berenike*". In 2016 he debuted with the role of Timur in *Turandot* in Macao, China and in 2017 at the Hong Kong Opera with "*Aida*". On the concert platform Durlovski has appeared as a soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, the Verdi and Mozart Requiems, Haydn's "*Die Schöpfung*" and has performed with Philharmonic orchestras of Moscow, Belgrade, Sofia, Skopje. The Association of Macedonian Composers awarded him with the "Georgi Bozhikov Prize". He was laureate at the international competition "Jeunesses Musicales" in Belgrade.



NIKOLINA JANEVSKA, MEZZO-SOPRANO

Born and raised in Skopje, Macedonia, she started her musical education at the early age of 7 playing the violin in the elementary music school in Skopje. Later on, starting high school, she switched to opera singing and, after graduating from the Musical high school, she graduated from University and got her Bachelor's degree in music – vocal performance at the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Music- Skopje during which she won several first-place awards in National and International opera singing competitions. After graduation, she continued her education out of the country participating in opera studios like Accademia Amo at Teatro Coccia in Novara.

She debuted in the National Opera in Macedonia in 2012. She sang many roles like: Carmen, Dorabella, Olga, Nicklausse, Zerlina, Fenena, Adalgisa.

In 2017 she performed three different roles as part of a China Tour at Tianjin Grand Theatre, Harbin Grand Theatre, Xiamen Grand theatre, and Haikou art center where she made her debut as Carmen.

In 2018 she made her Italian debut in Teatro Petruzzelli-Bari as Maddalena in *Rigoletto*, 2019 she was part of Luglio Musicale Trapanese where she performed Dido from *Dido and Æneas* with big success. In 2022 she returned to Teatro Petruzzelli in Bari to perform la Gran Sacerdotessa from *Aida* and with the same production she made her German debut at Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden.





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MAY OPERA EVENINGS

SWAN LAKE

MAY 15

P.I. TCHAIKOVSKY

Conductor: Eduard Ambartsumyan
(Armenia)

Choreographer: Viktor Yaremenko (Ukraine)

Set designer: Andrey Zlobin (Ukraine)

Costume designer: Gana Ipatieva (Ukraine)

Repetitours: Aleksandra Mijalkova, Vladimir
Borisov (Ukraine), Vasil Chichiashvili, Dafina
Daniloska – Kochevska,
Marija Josifovska Ristovska, Biljana
Basmadzheva Kovachevski

Concert master: Kliment Todoroski

Light design: Milcho Aleksandrov

Stage managers: Dubravka Shopova, Tijana
Tarchugovska

Accompanists: Marjan Vasilevski, Stefan
Pehchevski

CAST:

Odette / Odilia: Anna Muromtseva (Ukraine)

Prince Siegfried: Vladislav Melnik (Hungary)

The ballet soloists, ballet ensemble and the
orchestra of The National Opera and Ballet

May 15, 8:00 pm

SWAN LAKE

P.I. TCHAIKOVSKY (BALLET)



Synopsis:

Girls who have been turned into swans by the Wizard, live in the enchanted lake. Prince Siegfried gives his heart to the white swan Odette, hoping that his love can break the spell. During the ball at the royal court, the Wizard arrives with the black swan Odilia and during the passionate dance, for a moment, Prince Siegfried forgets Odette. Thunder and light bring him back to reality.

Siegfried seeks Odette on the shore of the lake, begging her for forgiveness. He challenges the Wizard to a duel and defeats him. The spell is broken, and a new day opens in front of Siegfried and Odette...

May 15, 8:00 pm

SWAN LAKE

P.I. TCHAIKOVSKY (BALLET)

EDUARD AMBARTSUMYAN, CONDUCTOR

Eduard Ambartsumyan earned degrees in composition and conducting at the Yerevan State Conservatory, where—while still a student—he served as conductor of the Chamber Orchestra. He later became conductor of both the Symphony Orchestra of Armenian Radio and Television and the Spendiaryan Opera House.

He founded and manages the Bryansk City Chamber Orchestra and the Bryansk Symphony Orchestra, leading numerous concerts across an impressively wide repertoire. Under his guidance, the Bryansk Symphony Orchestra has risen to international prominence and acclaim.

National Opera and Ballet in Skopje welcomes him since 1999., Ambartsumyan has conducted many concerts here and mounted full productions of the ballets Romeo and Juliet, Swan Lake, and Raymonda. His opera work in Skopje includes performances of Madama Butterfly, Turandot, and La Traviata.

He constantly performs with the best symphony and chamber orchestras in Europe, Russia, Armenia, Belarus and China.



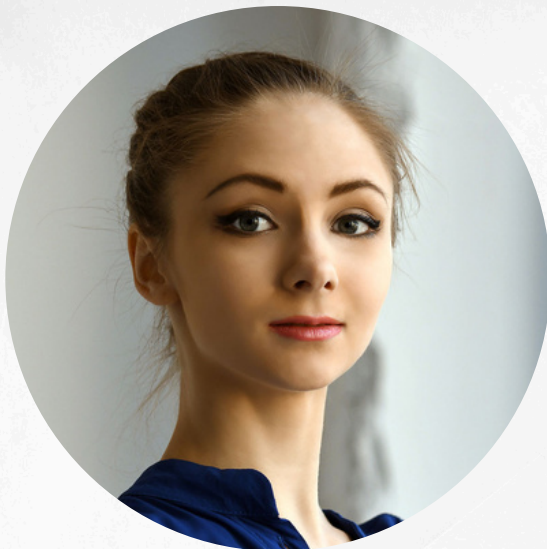
ANNA MUROMTSEVA, BALLERINA

Anna Muromtseva is an Ukrainian ballerina, who studied at the State Ballet School in Kiev and then at the National Pedagogical University named after Dragomanov.

Even during her school years, she showed great results, winning awards at several international ballet competitions.

She began her professional career in the ensemble of the Taras Shevchenko National Opera and Ballet Theater of Ukraine, where she later became a first soloist, and since 2022, a prima ballerina.

She has played numerous roles. Among them, the main roles of Odette/Odilia in "Swan Lake", Princess Aurora in "Sleeping Beauty", Kitri in "Don Quixote", Clara and Columbine in "The Nutcracker", Medora in "The Corsair", Zobeyde in "Scheherazade", the title roles in "Cinderella" and "Lileya", etc.



VLADISLAV MELNIK, BALLET DANCER

Vladislav Melnik gained his education at the State Ballet School in Perm and the Ballet School in Kharkov.

He built his professional career as a ballet dancer through engagements in several renowned ballet houses, starting from the Opera and Ballet in Perm, the Russian Ballet, the Bolshoi Theater and the Stanislavsky Ballet Theater in Moscow, all the way to the Hungarian National Ballet in Budapest, where he works for the last decade.

He has performed many significant roles in ballets from the classical and contemporary repertoire, such as Prince Siegfried in "Swan Lake", Basil in "Don Quixote", the Prince in "Cinderella", Gremin in "Onegin", Crassus in "Spartacus", Middleton in "Mayerling", Paris and Capulet in "Romeo and Juliet", etc.





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MAY OPERA EVENINGS

NABUCCO

MAY 19

GIUSEPPE VERDI

Conductor: Myron Michailidis (Greece)
Director: Renato Bonajuto (Italy)
Set designer: Flavio Arbetti (Italy)
Costume designer: Artemio Cabassi (Italy)
Choraographer: Maja Mitrovska Bogojevska
Ass. Conductor: Katerina Stojkovska
Assistant director: Teresa Gargano (Italy),
Ljupka Jakimovska
Concertmaster: Jane Bakevski
Choir-master: Jasmina Gjorgjeska
Light design: Milcho Aleksandrov
Accompanists: Elena Siljanoska, Janinka
Nevcheva, Andreja Naunov
Stage managers: Dragan Kostadinovikj,
Marko Pavlevski, Katerina Boshkovska
Prompter: Nevena Georgieva

CAST:

Nabucco: Luis Cansino (Spain)
Abigaille: Susanna Branchini (Italy)
Fenena: Nikolina Janevska
Ismaele: Ugo Tarquini (Italy)
Zaccaria: Giovanni Parodi (Italy)
The great priest: Dime Petrov
Anna: Ana Rojdeva
Abdallo: Dejan Stoev

The choir, the orchestra, the women's ballet
ensemble and students from the ballet
department at DMBUC "Ilija Nikolovski – Luj"

MAY 19, 8:00 pm

NABUCCO

GIUSEPPE VERDI (OPERA)



Synopsis:

Jerusalem and Babylon, 586 BC.

Nabucco is a Babylonian king. Ishmael, the grandson of the king of Jerusalem, and Fenena, Nabucco's daughter, are in love. But Ishmael is also in love with Fenena's half-sister, Abigaille, who, out of revenge, wants to dethrone Nabucco and take the throne.

The Great Priest, Zaccaria, protects and encourages his enslaved people. They, on the banks of the Euphrates river, are dreaming about freedom. The most famous part of the opera is "Va, pensiero" also known as the "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves".

In the end, good always wins... Nabucco frees the Jews, and Abigaille dies, asking for forgiveness...

MAY 19, 8:00 pm

NABUCCO

GIUSEPPE VERDI (OPERA)

MYRON MICHAILIDIS, CONDUCTOR

Widely regarded as one of the most important Greek conductors, Maestro Myron Michailidis after his position as General Music Director of the Philharmonic Orchestra and Theatre Erfurt, Germany, is the very first Artistic Director of the new Heraklion Cultural and Conference Center in Greece.

Appointed "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the French Republic in 2016, Michailidis served as Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Greek National Opera from 2011 to 2017. His contributions to the institution's achievements and successes were honoured with the Society of Friends of the Greek National Opera's prestigious "Apollo Award" in his final year. Maestro Michailidis' conducting style is characterized as impassioned and vivid, yet authoritative, allowing him to deliver outstanding dynamic control as well as wide-ranging musical expression. Prior to his tenure as Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of The Greek National Opera, Michailidis was Artistic Director and Chief Conductor of the Thessaloniki State Symphony Orchestra, a post he held from 2004 to 2011. From 1999 to 2004 he further served as Permanent Conductor at the Eastern Saxony Opera in Germany.

With a repertoire spanning over 350 symphonic works and 45 operas ranging from the Baroque to the Contemporary, Maestro Michailidis is particularly known for his interpretations of Beethoven, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff, as well as the operatic works by Verdi, Puccini, Gounod and Wagner. Throughout the years, Michailidis has collaborated with internationally distinguished musicians such as Paul Badura-Skoda, Salvatore Accardo, Cyprien Katsaris, Aldo Ciccolini, Ivo Pogorelich, Lars Vogt, Shlomo Mintz, Misha Maisky, Vadim Repin, Martino Tirimo, June Anderson, Cheryl Studer, Paata Burchuladze, Fazil Say and Barry Douglas.





LUIS CANSINO, BARITONE

Spanish baritone Luis Cansino studied at the Royal Conservatory, Madrid, and perfected his craft with tenor Pedro Lavirgen. Since his 1991/92 debut (Escamillo and Figaro), he has portrayed Leporello, Capellio, Enrico, Count di Luna, Carlo di Vargas, Valentin, Alfio, Ping, Marcello, and the title roles in Ezio and Renard. Recent triumphs include the dramatic baritone repertoire—Scarpia, Michonnet, Barnaba, Gémont, and leading parts in Nabucco, Macbeth, Rigoletto, Simone Boccanegra, as well as Falstaff and Dulcamara.

His concert work encompasses Handel's Messiah, Mozart's Coronation Mass, Beethoven's Ninth, Fauré's Requiem, Orff's Carmina Burana, and Lopes-Graça's Requiem. Among numerous international honours there are the "Lucrezia Arana" Prize and First Prize at the "Francisco Alonso" Competition.

HANYING TSO, SOPRANO

Hanying Tso is the first Chinese soprano to receive the National Scholarship for Solo Singers and to perform as a soloist with La Scala in Milan. She is also the first Chinese Turandot to perform at the Puccini Festival in Torre del Lago.

She gained her musical education in Taiwan, and then at the Luigi Cherubini Conservatory and La Scala in Milan in Italy, where she won numerous awards at national singing competitions.

Her repertoire includes the roles of Abigail in "Nabucco", Mimi in "La Bohème", Lady Macbeth in "Macbeth", Odabella in "Attila", Amelia in "Un Ballo in Masquerade", Leonora in "La Force de la Fate", Maddalena in "André Chénier", Santuzza in "Cavallerie Rusticana", as well as the title roles in "Turandot", "Sister Angelique", "Tosca", "Aida", "Manon Lescaut" and others.



UGO TARQUINI, TENOR

Italian tenor Ugo Tarquini graduated with highest honours from the "Licinio Refice" Conservatory, Frosinone, and pursued advanced studies with Nicola Martinucci, Alfredo Zanzotto, Lucetta Bizzi, and Alberto Gazale. He has sung for institutions including the Puccini Festival Foundation, Teatro Regio di Parma, Teatro Regio di Torino, Verona Arena, Moscow's Bolshoi, and Seoul Arts Centre.

His repertoire features Calaf, Pinkerton, Rodolfo, Cavaradossi, Ismaele, Don José, Riccardo, Radamès, Turiddu, Canio, Maurizio, Manrico, Tamino, Erik, Don Carlos, and more. In 2024 he premiered Matteo Franceschini's *Dorian Gray* (Bolzano) and Riccardo Zandonai's *La corona reale* (Rovereto). A dedicated pedagogue, he teaches at the Carlo Bergonzi Academy in Busseto and gives masterclasses across Europe.

GIOVANNI PARODI, BASS

Born in Genoa, Giovanni Battista Parodi began his musical studies in 1992 and continued them in 1997 with Roberto Negri at the Accademia di Palazzo Ducale. In 1999 he joined the Scala Opera Academy in Milan, where he made his debut in Fidelio and Tosca, both conducted by Riccardo Muti, and in Adriana Lecouvreur.

He also sang Verdi's Requiem, La Bohème, Le Trouvère, La Traviata, Un bal masqué, Macbeth, Le Barbier de Séville, Otello and Iphigénie en Aulide. He has also sung in La Bohème, Otello, Le Barbier de Séville, Les Lombards à la première croisade and Lucia di Lammermoor at the Teatro Comunale in Florence. He has sung regularly in Bologna, Trieste, Rome, Verona, Turin, Genoa, Parma, Bilbao, Amsterdam and Catania in roles such as Simon Boccanegra, Poliuto, La Bohème, Ernani, Macbeth, Manon, Les Capulet et les Montaigu.

He has sung Rigoletto and Un bal masqué at London's Royal Opera House and La Calisto, Don Giovanni and Rossini's Stabat Mater at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées. He has sung the role of Colline (La Bohème) at La Scala in Milan, in Paris, Turin, Rome, Naples, Oslo, Brussels and São Paulo, Oberto, conte di San Bonifacio and Attila in Parma, Le Trouvère in Bregenz, La Somnambule and La Calisto in Vienna.





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MAY OPERA EVENINGS

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

MAY 23

GIACOMO PUCCINI

Conductor: Marco Boemi (Italy)
Ass. Conductor: Katerina Stojkovska
Director: Aleksandar Tekeliev (Bulgaria)
Асс. режисер: Трајко Јордановски, Љупка
Јакимовска
Set designer: Zhivojin Trajanovic
Costume designer: Lira Grabul
Concert Master: Verica Lambevka
Choir Master: Jasmina Gjorgjeska, Gjurgica
Dashikj
Piano accompanists: Elena Siljanoska,
Janinka Nevcheva, Andrej Naunov
Stage managers: Dragan Kostadinovikj,
Marko Pavlevski, Katerina Boshkovska
Prompter: Nevena Georgieva

CAST:

Cio-Cio San (Madama Butterfly): Marija Jelikj
(Serbia)
Pinkerton: Gjorgji Cuckovski

Sharpless: Luis Cansino (Spain)
Suzuki: Marika Popovikj
Goro: Dejan Stoev
The Bonze: Neven Siljanovski
Yamadori: Jane Dunimagloski
Kate Pinkerton: Sonja Pendovska Madevska
Cio-Cio-san's mother: Valentina Dimitrievska
Cio-Cio-san's child: Oleg Cuckovski
Commissioner: Nikola Stochovski
Officer: Marko Gapo
Servant: Darko Stanojlovski, Borko Bidzovski
Sailor: Filip Mirchevski, Nikola Chedomirovski
Samurai: Shinasi Ramdan, Marko Dimovski

The Choir & the Orchestra of National Opera
and Ballet

MAY 23, 8:00 pm

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

GIACOMO PUCCINI (OPERA)

**Synopsis:**

A touching tragic story set at the beginning of the 20th century, in the Japanese city of Nagasaki...

The opera follows the social and psychological changes in the life of a young Japanese woman, Cho Cho San, named "Butterfly", who naively experiences the clash between the two worlds and tragically endures its fatal consequences – her joy over her marriage to the American officer Pinkerton, through his departure and the anticipation of his return, up to the disappointment of realizing that she has been abandoned and that her son will be taken away...

MAY 23, 8:00 pm

MADAMA BUTTERFLY

GIACOMO PUCCINI (OPERA)

MARCO BOEMI, CONDUCTOR

Marco Boemi, conductor and pianist is also graduated in law at La Sapienza University, Rome.

In more than 25 years career he worked with 3 generations of famous singers including Domingo, Pavarotti, Netrebko, Carreras, Grigolo, Beczala, Gruberova, Taddei, Villazon, Rebeka, Sabbatini,

Obratzova, Borodina, Abdrazakov, Tezier, Tetelmann, Gulegina, Burchuladze, Bruson, Salsi, Volle, Ricciarelli Gasdia, Gaiotti, Shicoff, Kabaivanska, Dessi, Eyvazov, Fabiano, Luchetti,...

He performed in venues such as Teatro alla Scala Milano, Teatro San Carlo Napoli, Bayerische Staatsoper, Suntory Hall Tokyo, Broad Stage Hall Santa Monica, Konzerthaus Berlin, Rome Opera, Verona Filarmonico, Sostakovic Hall San Petersburg, Konzerthaus Vienna, Teatro Bellini Catania, Teatro Regio Parma, Teatro Regio Torino, Royal Festival Hall London, Wigmore Hall London, Musikverein Wien, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, Grand Theatre Shanghai, Seoul Performing Centre, Royal Oman Opera, Salle Gaveau Paris, Wielki Theater Warsaw, Macerata Sferisterio, Chaliapin Festival Kazan, Teatro Massimo Palermo, Finnish Opera Helsinki, Teatro Carlo Felice Genova, Teatro Verdi Trieste, Budapest Opera, Athens Megaron, Taiwan Symphony Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, Ljubljana Festival, Vishnevskaya Centre, Politeama Palermo and many others.

MARIJA JELIĆ, SOPRANO

Marija Jelić, soprano was born in 1993 in Belgrade. She continued to study with Bruna Baglioni. In 2017, she auditioned for the Opera studio at the Belgrade National Theater, where she began to sing smaller and medium parts, and main roles in opera productions. She played Micaëla (Carmen) and Binički's Stanka (At Dawn) at the Belgrade National Theatre, and Mimi (La Bohème), Aida (Aida) and Tosca (Tosca) at the Serbian National Theater in Novi Sad, Elizabeth (Don Carlo).

She performed at numerous concerts in Azerbaijan, Argentina, Italy, Latvia, Estonia, Germany, Mexico, Argentina, Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Croatia and Slovenia.

At the Ljubljana Festival in 2021, she participated in a concert performance of Carmen with Elina Garanča and Jonathan Tetelman and Karl Mark Chichon as the conductor, in Ohrid at the Gala concert on the opening of the 60th Ohrid Summer Festival, in Belgrade with Plácido Domingo and the Symphony Orchestra of the Serbian Radio and Television in 2021, in Croatia with José Cura and at Plovdiv festival in Beethoven's Symphony No.9. etc.



GJORGJI CUCKOVSKI, TENOR

Macedonian tenor Gjorgji Cuckovski is a principal artist of the National Opera and Ballet, Skopje. A cum-laude graduate of the Faculty of Music, Skopje, he specialised in Vienna in Olivera Miljaković's class and earned his master's degree in Boris Trajanov's class. He has served as Chairman of the National opera and ballet Board, Artistic Director of the Opera, and selector of the Ohrid Summer Festival's music programme, becoming Festival Director in 2024. Cuckovski also teaches at the Europa Prima International University.

His roles include Radamès (Aida), the Duke (Rigoletto), Riccardo (Un ballo in maschera), Alfredo (La traviata), Rodolfo (La bohème), Calaf (Turandot), Don José (Carmen), Canio (Pagliacci), Turiddu (Cavalleria rusticana), Edgardo (Lucia di Lammermoor), Nemorino (L'elisir d'amore), Tamino (Die Zauberflöte), and Timotej (Lydia of Macedonia). He also appears in recital and in concert works such as Mozart's Requiem and Beethoven's Ninth. Performances have taken him to Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria, France, Russia, Portugal, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Albania, China, Indonesia, Japan, Croatia, Korea and the USA. He holds Skopje's prestigious "Novebmer 13th" Award.





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MAY OPERA EVENINGS

TURANDOT

MAY 27

GIACOMO PUCCINI

Conductor: Gianluca Martinenghi (Italy)
Director / Set designer / Costume designer:
Giancarlo del Monaco (Italy)
Choreographer: Sasha Evtimova
Concert Master: Jane Bakevski
Light designer: Wolfgang von Zoubek
(Austria)
Ass. conductor: Katerina Stojkovska
Ass. Director: Trajko Jordanovski, Ljupka
Jakimovska
Chorus master: Gjurgica Dashikj, Jasmina
Gjorgjeska
Piano Accompanists: Janinka Nevcheva,
Elena Siljanoska, Andrej Naunov
Stage managers: Dragan Kostadinovikj,
Marko Pavlevski, Katerina Boshkovska
Prompters: Nevena Georgieva

CAST:

Turandot: Veronika Dzhioeva (Russia)
Calaf: Zi-Zhao Guo (China)
Liù: Biljana Josifov
Timur: Vladimir Sazdovski
Ping: Dragan Ampov
Pang: Jane Dunimagloski
Pong: Dejan Stoev
A Mandarin: Dime Petrov
Altoum: Marjan Nikolovski

The choir and orchestra of the National Opera
and Ballet

MAY 27, 8:00 pm
TURANDOT
GIACOMO PUCCINI (OPERA)



Synopsis:

Beijing, China, in a very distant time...

An interesting story about Princess Turandot, who shows riddles to all the princes who want to marry her. Unfortunately, none of them has luck and all of them are executed. Until Calaf appears, successfully solves the riddles and wins Turandot's hand.

The opera shows choral scenes, strict and powerful lines, clearly underlined lyrical-tragic elements as well as dialogic liveliness.

MAY 27, 8:00 pm

TURANDOT

GIACOMO PUCCINI (OPERA)

VERONIKA DZHIOEVA, SOPRANO

Veronika Dzhioeva studied at the V. A. Gergiev College of Arts in Vladikavkaz and graduated from the St Petersburg Conservatory, later joining the Novosibirsk Opera and Ballet Theatre. A laureate of numerous international competitions, she has sung Elisabetta (*Don Carlo*), Turandot and Liù (*Turandot*), the Countess (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*), Gorislava (*Ruslan and Lyudmila*), Micaëla (*Carmen*), Odabella (*Attila*), Tatiana (*Eugene Onegin*), Amelia (*Un ballo in maschera*), Lady Macbeth (*Macbeth*), *Iolanta*, *Tosca*, and *Aida*.

Her engagements include Houston Grand Opera, Moscow's Bolshoi, the Mariinsky, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Brussels' La Monnaie, Prague National Opera, Finnish National Opera, Teatro Massimo Palermo, and Zurich Opera..



ZI-ZHAO GUO, TENOR

The Chinese tenor Zi-Zhao Guo is born in Luoyang Henan. He graduated from Shanghai Conservatory of Music, under the tutelage of Prof. Ge Yi, in 2014. In 2015, he became a student in the Conservatory "G.Verdi" of Milan, under the tutelage of Prof. Adelina Scarabelli. he has studied with il soprano Katia Ricciarelli for many years.

During his undergraduate studies at Shanghai Conservatory of Music, he sung recital at Shanghai Concert Hall in 2012.

After graduating from Milan Conservatory of Music, he began his career as a professional opera singer; he has performed in more than 20 opera houses including China National Center for the Performing Arts, Shanghai Grand Theatre, Theater Geneva in Switzerland, Slovak National Opera, Catania theatre ,Verona theater, Trieste theater, theater Bari , theater Bologna, theater Novara in Italia, Albanian National Opera House, etc., he sung the roles Rodolfo in Puccini's opera "La Bohème", Cavaradossi in "Tosca", Pinkerton in "Madama Butterfly", and Luigi in "Tabarro", Don Ottavio in Mozart's opera Don Giovanni, Nemorino in Donizetti's opera L'elisir d'amore, Otello in Rossini's opera Otello, Count Almaviva in Il barbiere di Siviglia, Don José in Bizet's opera Carmen, Duke of Mantova in Verdi's opera Rigoletto, Alfred in La Traviata, Cassio in Otello, Manrico in Il Trovatore, Turiddu in Mascagni's opera Cavalleria Rusticana, Andrea Chenier in Giordani's opera Andrea Chenier, Sergio in Respighi's opera Al Mulino, Canio in Leoncavallo's opera Pagliacci, etc.

VLADIMIR SAZDOVSKI, BASS

Bass Vladimir Sazdovski graduated from Sofia's "Pancho Vladigerov" Academy and completed a two-year specialisation in Vienna as a CEE Musiktheater scholar, later earning his master's with Boris Trajanov.

Since his 2006 debut (*Die Zauberflöte*) he has interpreted roles such as Ali (*L'italiana in Algeri*), Sparafucile, Dulcamara, Ramfis, Pharaoh, Padre Guardiano, Timur, Leporello, the Commendatore, Mephistopheles, Jacopo Fiesco, Banco, Ferrando (*Il trovatore*), Prince Gremin, Colline, Don Basilio, Oroveso, Samuel, and Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*).

Appearances include Teatro di San Carlo (Naples), Dubai Opera, Teatro Verdi (Trieste), Vienna's Schlosstheater, Hong Kong Grand Theatre, and Rome Opera.



BILJANA JOSIFOV, SOPRANO

Biljana Josifov earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees at the Faculty of Music Arts, Skopje, graduating cum laude in the class of Prof. Slavica Petrovska-Galić. She continues to refine her craft with renowned teachers and singers such as Lisette Oropesa, Caroline Merz, Rudy Park, Dzema, Gjorgji Cuckovski, Mihajlo Arsenski, Ana Durlovski, Raminta Lampsatis, and Darina Takova, and has gained prestigious prizes at several vocal competitions during her studies.

Her repertoire includes Antonia (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), Violetta Valéry (*La Traviata*), Liù (*Turandot*), Nedda (*Pagliacci*), Rosina (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Bastienne (*Bastien und Bastienne*), Christine (*The Phantom of the Opera*), Musetta (*La Bohème*), Jovanče (*Jovanče i Marika*), Second Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), Jovenot (*Adriana Lecouvreur*), Countess Ceprano (*Rigoletto*) and many others..





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MAY OPERA EVENINGS

AIDA

MAY 31

GIUSEPPE VERDI

Conductor: Gianna Fratta (Italy)
Adapted for the stage og National Opera and Ballet by: Dejan Proshev
Choreographer: Luisa Baldinetti (Italy)
Assistant choreographer: Sasha Evtimova
Assistant director: Ljupka Jakimovska
Concertmaster: Verica Lambevaska
Choir-master: Gjurgjica Dasikj
Light design: Милчо Александров
Accompanists: Elena Siljanoska, Janinka Nevcheva, Andreja Naunov
Stage managers: Dragan Kostadinović, Marko Pavlevski, Katerina Boshkovska
Prompter: Nevena Georgieva

CAST:

Aida: Daria Masiero (Italy)
Radames: James Lee (South Korea)
Amneris: Nensi Fabiola Herera (Spain)
Ramfis: Igor Durlovski
Pharaoh: Vladimir Sazdovski
Amonasro: Marjan Jovanoski
High priestess: Aleksandra Lazarevska Vasilevski
A messenger: Nikola Stojchevski

Ballet soloist: Ilijana Danilov

The choir, the orchestra and the male ballet ensemble of the National Opera and Ballet

MAY 31, 8:00 pm

AIDA

GIUSEPPE VERDI (OPERA)



Synopsis:

The opera "Aida" is one of Giuseppe Verdi's greatest works.

.It was written on the occasion of the opening of the Suez Canal, and its action is set in the time of the pharaohs and ancient Egypt.. The love between the Ethiopian slave girl Aida and the military leader Radames is presented.

But above their secret love, there are the feelings that the Egyptian princess Amneris cherishes for Radames...

MAY 31, 8:00 pm

AIDA

GIUSEPPE VERDI (OPERA)

GIANNA FRATTA, CONDUCTOR

After graduating in law, the remarkably talented conductor began and completed additional studies in piano, composition, choral and orchestral conducting.

Gianna has been a guest conductor with leading orchestras around the world, including the Berlin Symphony Orchestra, the Macao Orchestra, the Royal Academy Symphony Orchestra, the State Academic Symphony Orchestra of the Russian Federation, the Orchestre National d'Île-de-France and the Montevideo Philharmonic Orchestra. Recent performances have taken Gianna to major theatres around the world, including Carnegie Hall (New York), Teatro Coliseo (Buenos Aires), Teatro Solis (Montevideo), Seoul Art Centre (Seoul), Opera Theatre (Hong Kong), Smetana Hall (Prague) and Teatro Municipal (São Paulo), where she has collaborated with internationally renowned artists.

In her native Italy, she has conducted the most important orchestras and ensembles, including the Rai Orchestra Turin, the Orchestra del Teatro dell'Opera (Roma), the Orchestra Sinfonica of Milano, the Toscanini Orchestra (Parma), the Orchestra Regionale Toscana (Florence), the Teatro Petruzzelli Orchestra (Bari), the Sicilian Symphony Orchestra (Palermo) and Pomeriggi Musicali (Milan), to name but a few. A passionate admirer of the symphonic repertoire, Gianna has an extensive repertoire and has conducted the most important works of the Romantic period and the 20th century during her career.



JAMES LEE, TENOR

James Lee began his professional career in South Korea, performing roles such as Alfred and Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore*, and Pong in *Turandot* from 2008 to 2010. During this period, he also participated in contemporary Korean operas, including the role of Dong-i in *Woo, Jong Uek's Love of Buckwheat*, the title role in *Park, Chang Min's Wangsan Heu-ui*, and *Mong-Wan* in *Lim, June Hee's A Match Made in Heaven*.

His European debut came in 2011 with the Bucharest National Opera in Romania, marking the start of his international career. From 2013 onward, Lee established himself as a leading tenor in Europe and beyond.

In recent years, Lee has taken on diverse roles.

DARIA MASIERO, SOPRANO

Daria Masiero is an important Italian singer who achieved a great success in New York with a magnificent interpretation of the role of Fiora in *L'Amore dei tre Re* by Montemezzi. In her career Daria Masiero has sung with the greatest artists of the contemporary Opera scene like José Carreras, Plácido Domingo, Leo Nucci, Renato Bruson, Riccardo Muti, Sir Antonio Pappano, Myung-Wung Chung and many others, at the best Theaters and Festivals all over the world.

Her engagements include Elisabetta in *Don Carlo* at La Scala in Milan and for the Salzburg Festival, Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* and Liù in *Turandot* at Petruzzelli Theater in Bari and Comunale in Ferrara, Manon Lescaut in *Manon Lescaut* at Art Centre in Seoul, Amelia in *Un ballo in maschera* in Pavia, Cremona and Como, Odabella in *Attila* at Massimo Theater in Palermo and National Theater in Lubeck, Fedora in *Fedora* for Politema in Lecce and Foggia, *La Rondine* in Nice, Margherita in *Mefistofele* for Savonlinna Opera Festival, Margherita in *Mefistofele* and *Tosca* for Regio in Parma, Giglio in Lucca, Goldoni Livorno, Verdi in Pisa, Desdemona in *Otello* for La Scala in Milan, Como, Cremona, Pavia, Brescia, Arcimboldi in Milan.

She performed at the Australian Opera, as Aida and as Turandot in Handa's Opera on the Harbour, Liù in *Turandot* Leonora in *Il Trovatore*, Micaela in *Carmen*, Tosca in *Tosca* at the Sydney Opera House etc.



NENSI FABIOLA HERERA, MEZZO SOPRANO

Her career took off following her debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in the role of "Carmen". *Her repertoire ranges from Baroque to contemporary music.* Nancy has received critical and popular acclaim for her mesmerizing performance, appearing in iconic theaters around the world, including Covent Garden, the Bolshoi, Caracalla, Verona, Sydney, Tokyo, Rome, Berlin, and Munich, among many others.

Thanks to the award in the Operalia Competition, a long collaboration with Plácido Domingo was born on multiple and diverse projects.

Nancy is an artist in constant evolution, her voice and character have led her to take on roles such as Eboli in Don Carlo, Leonore in La Favorita (both in their Italian and French versions) , Dalila in Samson and Delilah, La Principessa de Bouillon in Adriana Lecouvreur, Bernarda Alba in The House of Bernarda Alba or Herodias in Salome, all with great critical success.

Her versatility has allowed her to perform an extensive symphonic repertoire, and she has a very active career as a recitalist. She has also created tailor-made shows such as Gitanas and Alma Mía.

She participated in the Grand New Year's Zarzuela Gala at the National Auditorium in Madrid alongside Plácido Domingo, among others.



MARJAN JOVANOSKI, BARITONE

Macedonian baritone Marjan Jovanovski studied in Skopje and Sofia, refining his craft with the legendary bass Nicola Ghiuselev. Since his 2002 debut he has held principal positions in Burgas and Skopje, mastering roles such as Nabucco, Rigoletto, Simon Boccanegra, Count di Luna, Rodrigo Posa, Renato, Giorgio Germont, Amonasro, Scarpia, Marcello, Sharpless, Tonio, Alfio, Escamillo, Figaro, and Enrico.

Guest engagements include Maribor, Sofia, Sarajevo, Belgrade, Germany, and tours across the USA. He is a laureate of numerous international competitions.



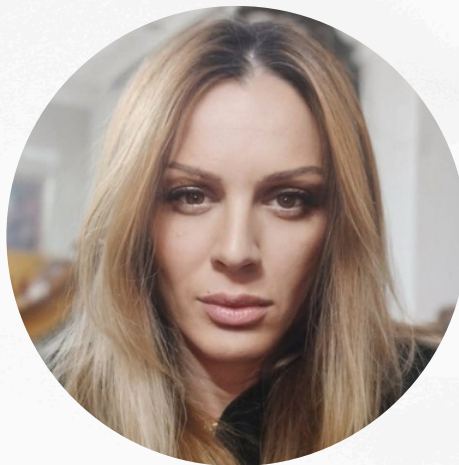


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MAY OPERA EVENINGS

EXHIBITIONS

MAY 9-MAY 31, 2025



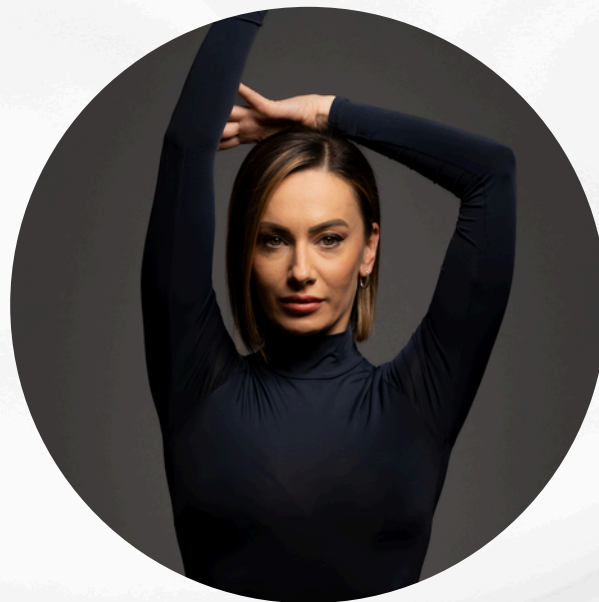
Elena Galika is a visual artist who obtained both her undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Skopje.

Throughout her career she has presented several solo exhibitions and participated in numerous group shows in Skopje, Belgrade, Istanbul, Tokyo, Canada, and Paris. She attracted particular international attention in Paris with her works at the Salon des Indépendants– Art Capital (2019), Salon d'Automne (2019), and the Grand Palais Éphémère– Salon des Artistes Français (2024).

For the 53 May Opera Evenings exhibition, Galika prepared two oil-on-canvas series: “Hypothesis for the Setting” and “Multitemporal Cohabitation.”

Galika's canvases reveal a parallel reality composed of fragments and wholes borrowed from well-known artists, all coexisting on a single surface in a single instant. She builds a visual bridge between “yesterday” and “tomorrow,” past and future, underscoring the idea that time itself does not pass—rather, we move through it. Her works offer familiar images from the past refracted through the prism of the present.

EXHIBITION – VISUAL ARTIST ELENA GALIKA



The exhibition is dedicated to the celebration of the 25 year jubilee of artistic activity opera primadonna Ana Durlovski and prima ballerina Marija Kichevska Shokarovska.

In the past 25 years, each of them has left a significant mark on the Macedonian cultural scene, creating masterful and unforgettable opera and ballet characters.

The exhibition will feature photographs of the most significant creations made throughout their careers.

EXHIBITION - 25 YEARS OF ARTISTIC ACTIVITY ANA DURLOVSKI MARIJA KICHEVSKA SHOKAROVSKA

**THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY!**



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MAY OPERA EVENINGS

NATIONAL OPERA AND BALLET

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Hristo Sarakinov

Artistic Director of the Ballet:

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Skopje, 2025

