



LA FENICE

notiziario di informazione musicale e avvenimenti culturali

PRESS RELEASE

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Carnival Fenice 2020

Great contemporary dance with a ballet by **John Neumeier dedicated to Eleonora Duse**, the comic masterpiece by Pergolesi, *La serva padrona*, and one of the jewels of belcanto, Gaetano Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*; but also an original performance of prose and music set in Venice at the end of the eighteenth century *Fantasmagorie. Vita, morte e miracoli di Pulcinella [Life, death and miracles of Pulcinella]*: this is the entertaining programme of the performances that will be staged at Teatro La Fenice, in the Sale Apollinee of the Opera House in Campo San Fantin and at Teatro Malibran during the Venice Carnival period, **from Saturday 8 February to Shrove Tuesday 25 February 2020**.

And the programme will be even fuller thanks to the second edition of *Carnival Cocktail*, the aperitif accompanied by a DJ set in the Sale Apollinee of Teatro La Fenice during the 'hottest' days of the Venetian Carnival: Thursday 20 February and Sunday 23 February, after the performances of *Elisir d'amore* at 19.00 and 17.00 respectively, the public may raise their glasses in their fancy dress costumes, to the rhythm of the DJ's music.

At the beginning of the Carnival festivities **John Neumeier** will pay homage at Teatro La Fenice to Eleonora Duse. The inspiration for Neumeier's 2015 "choreographic fantasies" called simply *Duse*, came from several episodes in the life of this legendary actress, who influenced such disparate figures as Rainer Maria Rilke, Isadora Duncan, Arrigo Boito and Gabriele D'Annunzio from the end of the nineteenth to the beginning of the twentieth century. Fascinated by Duse's artistic and professional charisma, her continuous search for a new theatrical ideal and her numerous love/hate relationships, Neumeier developed his own subjective vision of her biography: leaving any kind of documentary approach aside, he invented situations and images that evoke the essence of this unique character. Equally unique is the character of **Alessandra Ferri** in the role of Duse in dialogue with the ballerinas of the John Neumeier Hamburg Ballet, while the music by Benjamin Britten and Arvo Pärt will be performed live by the Teatro La Fenice Orchestra, conducted by Luciano Di Martino. Following its première in Hamburg, there have been countless repeat performances of *Duse* throughout Germany; Teatro La Fenice will be the venue for the Italian première, on February 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, 2020.

Two comic opera masterpieces from completely different moments in the history of opera will be staged one after the other. **Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's** *La serva padrona* premièred in 1733 at Teatro San Bartolomeo in Naples as a pair of intermezzos between the three acts of *Prigionier superbo*, an opera seria by the same composer. The light-hearted plot uses two long-standing comic characters: the wealthy Uberto (bass) is a mature bachelor who lives alone with his cheeky housemaid Serpina (soprano) and servant Vespone (mute). After some scheming and heated



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discussions in five arias and two duets, Uberto finally agrees to marry Serpina. Based on similar earlier works by Albinoni and Hasse, Pergolesi and his librettist Gennarantonio Federico created a miniature masterpiece, an evergreen that is still met with resounding success in opera houses today worldwide. Directed by Francesco Bellotto and with the baroque orchestra of the Benedetto Marcello Conservatory in Venice led by the first violinist Enrico Parizzi, the production is part of the *Opera Giovani*, the project created by La Fenice together with the Benedetto Marcello Conservatory for schools, families and the younger generations. There will be three performances at Teatro Malibran on 13, 14, and 15 February 2020.

Gaetano Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, a two-act comic opera to a libretto by Felice Romani debuted at Teatro della Canobbiana in Milan on 12 May 1832. Full of enchanting melodies, this is perhaps the most pleasant score Donizetti ever composed for the comic genre. Worthy of note in the first act is the vitality in the self-promoting screed of the charlatan dottor Dulcamera and in his duet with the poor boy Nemorino, who is hopelessly in love with Adina, the capricious village beauty. In the second act, on the other hand, we have the chorus "Cantiamo, facciam brindisi", the barcarola "Io son ricco e tu sei bella", the quartet "Dell'elisir mirabile", the duet Adina-Dulcamara "Quanto amore" and lastly Nemorino's melodious ballade "Una furtive lagrima", the forte of the tenor repertoire. Bepi Morassi is responsible for the direction of the production with scenes and costumes by Gianmaurizio Fercioni, while Jader Bignamini will conduct the Orchestra and Choir of Teatro La Fenice. There will be no less than nine performances at Teatro La Fenice on 5, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 25 February 2020.

Finally, the Sale Apollinee in Teatro La Fenice are the venue for the world première of the opera ***Fantasmagorie. Vita, morte e miracoli di Pulcinella***: freely inspired by Giandomenico Tiepolo's works, and marking the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of his birth, the *pièce* is set in Venice at the end of the eighteenth century. Protagonist is none other than the famous and elderly painter, who wanders around the city disguised as the ragamuffin head of a theatre company, offering the people his most incredible and innovative creation: phantasmagoria, a performance of images for his new paintings that really come to life thanks to optical contraptions, opera music and *Commedia dell'Arte*, bringing to life the marvellous and bizarre life of Pulcinella, the Neapolitan puppet with a narration of his countless and tragic-comic deaths. Based on an idea by and produced by Michele Modesto Casarin, the plot and lyrics are by Marco Gnaccolini, with original music by Alberto Maron and sets and costumes by Licia Lucchese. The cast includes the actors Susi Danesin, Claudio Colombo and Michele Modesto Casarin, the sopranos Giuseppina Perna and Ilenia Tosatto and the Harmonia Pratica Ensemble. There will be numerous repeat performances in the Sale Apollinee in Teatro La Fenice on 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24 and 25 February 2020.

Prices range from € 10 to € 220. Carnival Cocktail tickets, including the performance and cocktail are on sale from € 160 per person; while those who already have a ticket for *L'elisir d'amore* may purchase tickets for the Carnival Cocktail by paying a supplement of € 100. For further information and reservations: www.teatrolafenice.it, call center Hellovenezia +39 041 2424.