



# LA FENICE

notiziario di informazione musicale e avvenimenti culturali

**PRESS RELEASE**

Venice, July 2022

## **2022-2023 Opera and Ballet Season 2022-2023 Symphony Season**

### **The programme from 18 November 2022 to 4 November 2023**

The **2022-2023 Opera and Ballet Season** and the **Symphony Season** of Fondazione Teatro La Fenice was presented today, Wednesday 13 July, 2022, by the superintendent and artistic director Fortunato Ortombina and the general director Andrea Erri. The Superintendent said:

‘Fourteen operas, two ballets and eighteen symphony concerts for season ticket holders; countless activities in the Education Programme for children, teenagers and families, music in and around Venice and, in collaboration with the Venice Diocese, a programme of sacred music in the nearby Church of San Fantin.’ This was how the superintendent and artistic director Fortunato Ortombina summarised the season. ‘Paying particular attention to the younger generation we have increased the dates for under 35s in both the Symphony and Opera Season. This is a season in which La Fenice is even more open, making it more and more accessible to people today. This is the signal we felt we had to give, nine months after having finally returned to 100% seating capacity. 2023 will also see two tours, one in Italy and one abroad. Myung-Whun Chung will open both the Opera and Symphony Season.’

The opening opera this season is *Falstaff*, bringing to a close the long path that began in 2009 with Maestro Chung, Teatro La Fenice and Verdi. The director will be the English-born Adrian Noble, who directed the Royal Shakespeare Company for many years. There will be two ballets: *La Dame aux Camélias* by the choreographer John Neumeier; the ballet was inspired by the same literary source as Verdi’s *Traviata*, and it will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Hamburg Ballet’s foundation. This will be followed by Jean-Christoph Maillot’s *Lac* from Pëtr Il’ič Čajkovskij’s *Swan Lake* with Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, which was programmed for the last season but cancelled because of the pandemic. Going back to opera, this season pays homage to Bruno Maderna with a new production of his *Satyricon*, marking not only the fiftieth anniversary of its world première but also the composer’s death while the Symphony Season will commemorate Luciano Berio, twenty years after his death. There will be two operas from the eighteenth-nineteenth century opera buffo repertoire: a new production of Domenico Cimarosa’s



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*Matrimonio Segreto* and a revival of Gioachino Rossini's *Barber of Seville*. After a lengthy absence, two of Giuseppe Verdi's masterpieces will return to the Venetian stage: *Ernani*, the first of the five operas by Verdi that debuted in Venice, in a new production co-produced by La Fenice with Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia, Valencia while *I Due Foscari* will close the season, and is in collaboration with La Fenice and Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. *I Due Foscari* were last staged at La Fenice in 1977. Regarding contemporary music, there will be two works, both of which are mainly for schools: *Bach Haus* by Michele Dall'Ongaro, in collaboration with the Benedetto Marcello Conservatory of Venice, and *Acquaprofonda* by Giovanni Sollima, an AsLiCo production, which was awarded the prestigious 'Filippo Siebancek' prize at the Premio Abbiati 2022, with Orchestra 1813 of the Teatro Sociale of Como. A fundamental title in Gluck's 'reform operas', *Orfeo ed Euridice* will be staged with a new production with direction by Pier Luigi Pizzi and musical direction by Ottavio Dantone: it should be noted that the last production of this opera in Venice was in 1995. Going to the Baroque, of particular note is the Venetian première of *Triumph of Time and of Disillusion* by Georg Friedrich Händel: the director of this new creation is the famous Japanese choreographer Saburo Teshigawara. But that's not all. Five years after its resounding success in the theatre, Antonio Vivaldi's *Orlando Furioso* will be staged with a production by Fabio Ceresa and conducted by Diego Fasolis. Staged for the first time in 2018 and published on the Teatro La Fenice YouTube channel in 2020, this performance has had over six hundred and twenty visualisations. Another great revival is by the German composer Richard Wagner with his *Der fliegende Holländer* (The Flying Dutchman), with a new production conducted by Markus Stenz. This opera has also not been staged in Venice for over twenty-five years. La Fenice and the Venice Academy of Fine Arts will collaborate once again with a new production of Pietro Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana*. Last of all, the programme includes one of the great Fenice repertoire productions, Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata* with the now historic direction by Robert Carsen.

In addition to the meetings with the opera organised by *Amici della Fenice* in the Sala Apollinea Grande, there will be further in-depth meetings that will take place outside of the theatre with the aim of furthering the continuous dialogue with the city, and fulfilling our mission of disseminating culture throughout the territory.

Beginning on December 3, 2022, and ending on November 4, 2023, the **Symphony Season** will see the return and debut of some of the most active conductors worldwide in Teatro La Fenice and Teatro Malibran. Myung-Whun Chung will be holding the baton for the opening of the Season with Gustav Mahler's Fifth Symphony, a continuation of the long-standing project going back numerous seasons; in addition, he will be conducting *Vesperae solennes de confessore* for soloists, choir and orchestra, KV 339 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with the soloists Zuzana Marková, Marina Comparato, Antonio Poli and Alex Esposito. Maestro Chung will return in the spring for the concert on Easter Friday when he will conduct Gioachino Rossini's *Stabat Mater* with the soprano soloist Carmela Remigo, mezzosoprano Marina Comparato, tenor Maxim Mironov and bass Gianluca Buratto. Amongst those who will be conducting the Teatro La Fenice Orchestra for the first time are George

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Petrou; Jonathan Darlington who will conduct Mozart's Concerto KV 466 with the piano soloist Davide Ranaldi who won the prestigious 'Premio Venezia' and Fauré's *Requiem* with the soprano Hilary Cronin and the baritone Armando Noguera; Louis Lortie, who will be making up the concert that was cancelled last year for health reasons; and lastly, Min Chung who will be conducting the guest company this season, the Haydn Orchestra of Bolzano and Trento. Other protagonists include Asher Fisch, Charles Dutoit, Ton Koopman and Federico Guglielmo with a Baroque programme that also includes Antonio Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*; Donato Renzetti will also return, conducting Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* with the soloist voices of Giorgio Berrugi, and Simone Del Savio; Harmut Haenchen with a 'German' programme dedicated to Schumann and Wagner; Robert Trevino will be conducting Beethoven's *Pastoral* and Richard Strauss' *Also sprach Zarathustra*; and lastly, Alpesh Chauhan, Markus Stenz and Dennis Russell Davies. The programmes range from the Baroque to Bruno Maderna.

On the occasion of his concert, Maestro Dutoit will be awarded the 'Premio una Vita per la Musica.'

The new Season also includes the **Christmas Concert** with Marco Gemmani and the Marciana Cappella in the Basilica of Saint Mark and in Mestre Cathedral; the **New Year's Concert** conducted by Daniel Harding, soloists Federica Lombardi and Freddy De Tommaso, which will be broadcast live on the Italian television channel Rai1; and the **symphony concert in Saint Mark's Square** at the height of summer with Juraj Valčuha who will be conducting Beethoven's Ninth.

After the summer we will announce further details of a new initiative together with the Venice Diocese, a **programme of sacred music** that will take place in the Church of San Fantin from April to June 2023. The programme foresees a short series of concerts, starting with Antonio Vivaldi, in a recently restored religious building, as a development of the long-standing project on the Red Priest.

In recent years our national and international audience have made us understand that culture cannot be defined as such unless it considers the function of its **social impact**. This means programming in such a way that it is not only open to everyone, in our venues in La Fenice and Malibran, but also goes beyond these spaces to encounter people. With specific initiatives that are promoted as part of the 'Education Programme' for children, teenagers, families and the under 35s, La Fenice is therefore continuing its commitment, very often with the help of and made possible thanks to the invaluable collaboration of associations in the sector that have all of the Venetian Opera House's support and admiration.

In May 2023 the Teatro La Fenice Choir will be performing at Teatro alla Scala in Milan, with Gustav Mahler's Eighth Symphony, conducted by Riccardo Chailly.

The *Main partner* this Season is Intesa Sanpaolo.  
For more information visit [www.teatrolafenice.it](http://www.teatrolafenice.it).

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## 2022-2023 OPERA AND BALLET SEASON

The Season will be opened with ***Falstaff* by Giuseppe Verdi**. The last masterpiece by the Busseto-born maestro, it is considered a work of art of comic opera. Inspired by William Shakespeare, his comedy *The merry Wives of Windsor* and the play *The History of Henry the Fourth* in particular, it is a three-act comic opera that Verdi worked on in collaboration with Arrigo Boito, with whom he had worked six years earlier on *Otello*. ***Falstaff*** premiered at Teatro alla Scala in Milan on February 9, 1893, where it was met with resounding success. As was the case with Verdi's other operas in the past seasons, this new production of ***Falstaff*** will be conducted by Myung-Whun Chung; direction by Adrian Noble, the British director and acclaimed interpreter of Shakespearian opera; his team includes the set designer Dick Bird, costume designer Clancy and light designer Jean Kalman. Protagonists include Nicola Alaimo, Renée Barbera, Selene Zanetti, Vladimir Stoyanov, with Sara Mingardo and Veronica Simeoni. ***Fidelio*** will be staged at Teatro La Fenice on 18, 20, 22, 24, and 26 November 2022.

The coming season will also see the return of a great dance season: indeed, La Fenice will be hosting ***La Dame aux Camélias*** (The Lady of the Camellias), John Neumeier's contemporary choreography masterpiece. Inspired by the famous novel by Alexandre Dumas  *fils*, which was also the literary source for Giuseppe Verdi's *Traviata*, the music for the three-act ballet is by Fryderyk Chopin and is testimony to the poetic sensitivity of Neumeier, a leading choreographer and outstanding innovator of the dramatic ballet genre. Created by John Neumeier for the Stuttgart Ballet in 1978, it will be performed in Venice by the Hamburg Ballet, the company directed by Neumeier that is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, with music performed by the Teatro La Fenice Orchestra, conducted by Markus Lehtinen. It will be staged at Teatro La Fenice on 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 January 2023.

**Bruno Maderna's *Satyricon*** turns fifty this year: based on a Latin novel with the same name by Petronius, the one-act opera will be performed at La Fenice in memory of the great Venetian composer, marking the fiftieth anniversary of his death. An opera buffa with a strong element of sarcasm, ***Satyricon*** focuses on the key episode in Petronius' book, Trimalchio's dinner, a character of greatly flaunted vulgarity, symbolising the profound crisis of contemporary world values. Debuted at the Holland Festival of Scheveningen on March 16, 1973, the opera will be staged for the first time at Teatro La Fenice after having been performed only once in Venice before that at Teatro Goldoni in 1998. With musical direction by Alessandro Cappelletto, it is directed by Francesco Bortolozzo, with set design by Andrea Fiduccia, costumes by Marta del Fabbro and light design by Fabio Baretin. The cast includes Marcello Nardis, Manuela Custer and Christopher Lemmings. ***Satyricon*** will be staged at Teatro Malibran on 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 January 2023.

One of the very few operas from the repertoire of eighteenth-century comedy that is still regularly performed today since its première, **Domenico Cimarosa's *Il matrimonio segreto*** is a two-act dramma giocoso. To a libretto by Giovanni Bertati, a poet who was born in Martellago and highly active in Venice, the opera premiered at



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the Vienna Burgtheater on February 7, 1792 where it was immediately met with a success that it has enjoyed ever since in opera houses worldwide. *Il matrimonio segreto* will be staged with a new production by Alvis Casellati, directed by Luca De Fusco, with set design and costumes by Marta Crisolini Malatesta and light design by Gigi Saccomandi. The cast includes Juan Francisco Gatell, Lucrezia Drei, Martina Belli and Omar Montanari. There will be five performances at Teatro La Fenice: 10, 12, 14, 16, and 18 February 2023. On Saint Valentine's Day, the performance will be followed by a cocktail with DJ set in the Sale Apollinee.

*Ernani* was the first of the five works La Fenice commissioned **Giuseppe Verdi** with, and also the first engagement of the composer – considered a rising star of Italian melodrama at that time – for an opera house other than the Milan Scala. And that's not all: it was thanks to *Ernani* and the Venetian commission that the composer met the Muranese poet Francesco Maria Piave, who was at the beginning of his career at that time. A four-act opera based on Victor Hugo's *Hernani*, it premièred on March 9, 1844 where it was met with success. It will be staged in a new production that is a co-production of La Fenice and the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia, with direction by Andrea Bernard, set design by Alberto Beltrame, costumes by Elena Beccaro, light design by Marco Alba, and musical direction by Riccardo Frizza. The cast includes Anastasia Bartoli, Piero Pretti, Michele Pertusi ed Ernesto Petti. It will be staged at Teatro La Fenice on 16, 19, 22, 25, and 28 March 2023.

A turning point in the history of opera, *Orfeo ed Euridice* is the opera with which, together with the librettist Ranieri de' Calzabigi, Christoph Willibald Gluck began the season of reform of opera seria. Based on the myth of Orpheus as 'theatre action', with choruses and dance, it premièred at the Vienna Burgtheater on October 5, 1762. The opera will be staged with a new production by two of the great masters of Italian opera: Pier Luigi Pizzi in charge of directions, set design and costumes, and Ottavio Dantone in charge of musical direction; the cast includes Cecilia Molinari, Mary Bevan and Silvia Frigato. Twenty-eight years after its last performance in Venice, it will be staged at Teatro La Fenice on 28, 30 April and 2, 4, and 6 May 2023.

The ballet season will also see the return of one of the most popular ballet companies on the international scene: after *Romeo e Giulietta* in 2019, **Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo** will return to La Fenice with *Lac*, a reinterpretation of Swan Lake by the choreographer Jean-Christophe Maillot. Based on a plot by Maillot conceived together with the writer Jean Rouaud, to the original music by Tchaikovsky with additions by Bertrand Maillot, it will be played live by the Fenice Orchestra, conducted by Igor Dronov. The choreography is a combination of classic ballet and modern dance, creating a performance that is both dramatic and sensual, with an intriguing air of tension that continues from beginning to end. The ballet, which premièred on December 27, 2011 at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco, had been programmed last season but was cancelled because of the pandemic. It will be staged at Teatro La Fenice on 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21 May 2023.

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**Georg Friedrich Händel's *The Triumph of Time and Disillusion*** is finally coming to Venice to Teatro La Fenice. Composed for the first time in 1707 to a libretto by Cardinal Benedetto Pamphilj and then revised twice many years later, in 1737 and 1757, the German composer's first oratorical work is an allegory with four protagonists: Beauty, Pleasure, Time and Disillusion, as a sort of manifesto of austerity echoing the Counter-Reformation. The opera will be staged with a new production with musical direction by the repertoire specialist Andrea Marcon, and cast that includes Giuseppina Bridelli, Krystian Adam and Valeria Girardello, and direction, set design, costumes and choreography by Saburo Teshigawara from Japan. There will be five performances at Teatro Malibran on 25, 28, 30 May, and 1 and 3 June, 2023.

After his absence in the Fenice opera seasons in past years, the German composer **Richard Wagner** will once again be protagonist with ***Der fliegende Holländer*** (The Flying Dutchman), which is also considered the Leipzig-born composer's first mature opera and the first time he drastically distanced himself from conventional opera. Based on the Nordic legend of the ghost ship that was doomed never to die and sail around for ever without making port until it met a devoted woman who would restore peace, the romantic opera was composed to a libretto by Wagner himself. It debuted at Königlich Sächsisches Hoftheater in Dresden on January 2, 1843 and will be staged with a new production with musical direction by Markus Stenz and stage direction by Marcin Lakomicki. The cast includes Franz-Josef Selig, Anja Kampe, Toby Spence and Samuel Youn. It will be staged at Teatro La Fenice on 22, 25, 28 June and 1, and 4 July 2023.

La Fenice and the Venice Academy of Fine Arts will collaborate once again with a new production of **Pietro Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana***, a masterpiece of veristic opera that will return to the Venetian stage. A one-act melodrama to a libretto by Giovanni Targioni-Tozzetti and Guido Menasci, it is based on a novella with the same name by Giovanni Verga; it debuted on May 17, 1890 at Teatro Costanzi in Rome where it was met with resounding success, which it has done ever since in opera houses worldwide. It will be staged with a new production with direction by Italo Nunziata and musical direction by Donato Renzetti and a cast that includes Silvia Beltrami, Jean-François Borrás and Dalibor Janis. *Cavalleria rusticana* will be performed on 25, 27, 29, 31 August and 3 September 2023.

As far as Baroque music is concerned, for several years now La Fenice has been paying particular attention to Vivaldi's operas: following *Dorilla in Tempe* (2019), *Farnace* (2021) and the more recent *Griselda* (2022), this season will see **Antonio Vivaldi's *Orlando furioso***. Direction of the production is by Fabio Ceresa with Diego Fasolis in charge of musical direction and Sonia Prina, Lucia Cirillo and Luca Tittoto amongst the protagonists. This is a performance that premièred in 2018 and then, at the height of the pandemic in 2020, was published on the La Fenice YouTube channel where it was met with great success on the web, with over six hundred and twenty thousand visualisations. A drama to music to a libretto by Grazio Braccioli based on Ludovico Ariosto's masterpiece, *Orlando furioso* had its world

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première in Venice, at Teatro di Sant'Angelo in the autumn of 1727. *Orlando furioso* it will be staged at Teatro Malibran on 23, 26, 28 September and 1 October 2023.

The opera season will close with **Giuseppe Verdi's *I due Foscari***, another title that has not been performed at La Fenice for some time, since the last performance was in 1977. The opera premiered at Teatro Argentina in Rome on November 3, 1844 and is a three-act tragic opera to a libretto by Francesco Maria Piave based on a same-named play by Lord Byron. The opera is set in Venice in 1457 when it was still ruled by doges and is the most outstanding example of how Verdi so ingeniously portrayed tragedy. It will be staged with a new production by Fondazione Teatro del Maggio Musicale with stage direction by Grisha Asagaroff and musical direction by Sebastiano Rolli. The cast includes Luca Salsi, Francesco Meli and Anastasia Bartoli. It will be staged at Teatro La Fenice on 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14 October 2023.

The Education Programme for schools, children and families includes two contemporary titles that are of great interest for all ages and have never been performed in Venice. ***Bach Haus***, a one-act opera to a libretto by Vincenzo De Vivo with music by **Michele Dall'Ongaro** is a sort of *divertissement* that evokes Bach's musically-talented family that is asked to compose an opera by an "entrepreneur in dire straits" but that is never completed. The opera, which premiered at Teatro Nazionale in Rome in 2000, will be staged with a new production with the participation of the Orchestra of the Benedetto Marcello Conservatory in Venice. There will be three repeat performances at Teatro Malibran on 16, 17 and 18 March 2023.

Another novelty for Venice is **Giovanni Sollima's *Acquaprofonda***, a contemporary "civic" opera for all ages and winner of the "Filippo Siebancek" award at the Premio Abbiati 2022. Based on a libretto by Giancarlo De Cataldo, with great originality the opera portrays one of the most important subjects of our times, water pollution; it will be staged with the AsLiCo production, with direction by Luis Ernesto Doñas and Orchestra 1813 of the Teatro Sociale of Como, conducted by Riccardo Bisatti. A few months after its Roman debut in December 2021, *Acquaprofonda* will go on stage at Teatro Malibran on 27, 28, and 29 April 2023.

The season also foresees the return of some of the highly successful productions from La Fenice's repertoire with the revival of two of the most popular with opera lovers. ***The Barber of Seville* by Gioachino Rossini** will be staged with the production directed by Bepi Morassi with set and costume design by Lauro Crisman, musical direction by Renato Palumbo and a cast that includes Chiara Amarù, Antonino Siragusa, Alessandro Luongo and Marco Filippo Romano in the main roles. There will be five performances: 11, 15, 17, 19 and 21 February 2023. This opera goes on stage during the Venice Carnival so there will be a cocktail with DJ set in the Sale Apollinee to celebrate the Venetian Festival *par excellence* at the end of the performance on Sunday 19 February. From **Giuseppe Verdi's** popular trilogy, the second opera is ***La Traviata*** with the now legendary production by Robert Carsen, which inaugurated the newly restored Fenice, with direction by Stefano Ranzani and a cast that includes Rosa Feola and Claudia Pavone alternating in the role of Violetta, Piero Pretti and Antonio Poli as Alfredo, and Gabriele Viviani and

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Luca Grassi as Germont. There will be ten performances: 10, 12, 14, 17, 20, 22 and 24 September, 7, 11, and 13 October, 2023.

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