



LA FENICE

notiziario di informazione musicale e avvenimenti culturali

PRESS RELEASE

Venice, 4 July 2023

2023-2024 Opera and Ballet Season

2023-2024 Symphony Season

The **2023-2024 Opera and Ballet Season** and the **Symphony Season** of Fondazione Teatro La Fenice were presented today by the superintendent and artistic director Fortunato Ortombina, the artistic and organizational manager of dance activities Franco Bolletta and the general director Andrea Erri in the presence of the Managing Director of Theatre Activities of the Municipality of Venice, Giorgia Pea.

The Superintendent said: "Thirteen opera titles, one ballet and nineteen symphonies; in addition, an extensive programme in the Educational sector for children, young people and families and lots and lots of music in and around Venice." The artistic director Fortunato Ortombina continued: "We will invest a great deal of energy in attracting young people, confirming the dates dedicated to the under 35s, especially in the field of the symphony programme. It will be a season with numerous debuts, rare titles that have been absent from Venetian billboards for a long time, and great stock classics. Finally, we will emphasize the anniversaries of musicians, artists, and the symbolic figures of our musical culture and beyond."

The **Opera and Ballet Season** will open with *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* by Jacques Offenbach, in an international co-production directed by Damiano Michieletto and musical direction by Antonello Manacorda. In January 2024 there is a date with dance and *Les Saisons* by choreographer Thierry Malandain, a ballet that was freely inspired by the *Four Seasons* with music by Antonio Vivaldi and Giovanni Antonio Guido. This will be followed by a title that is rarely performed: *Maria Egiziaca* by Ottorino Respighi directed by Pier Luigi Pizzi and conducted by Manlio Benzi; followed by Arrigo Boito's *Mefistofele* conducted by Nicola Luisotti with direction by Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier. On the baroque side, *Il Tamerlano* by Antonio Vivaldi is in the programme, entrusted to two specialists of this repertoire: the conductor Diego Fasolis and the director Fabio Ceresa. After this we have *Ariadne auf Naxos* by Richard Strauss in a new production co-produced with the Teatro Comunale di Bologna. The anniversaries of Luigi Nono and Arnold Schönberg will be celebrated in a single evening with performances of respectively *The illuminated factory* and *Erwartung*, in a production with direction by Daniele Abbado and conducted by Jérémie Rhorer. This will be followed by *La vita è sogno* by Gian Francesco Malipiero. The Education programme foresees two contemporary music titles One is a revival, *Pinocchio* by Pierangelo Valtinoni while the other is an absolute novelty, *Marco Polo*, an opera created by the composition students of the Benedetto Marcello Conservatory of Venice to mark the



LA FENICE

seven hundredth anniversary of the death of the Venetian traveller and writer: this production is a continuation of our successful collaboration with the Venice Academy of Fine Arts. Lastly, some of the highly successful productions from the Fenice repertoire will return to the stage: *The Barber of Seville* by Gioachino Rossini, *Don Giovanni* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and two works by Giacomo Puccini, in celebration of the centennial of his death, *La Bohème* and *Turandot*.

The **Symphony Season** begins on 9 December 2023 and ends on 20 October 2024, with internationally renowned conductors, long-awaited come backs, and debuts in the auditorium of Teatro La Fenice and at Teatro Malibran. **Robert Treviño** will conduct the opening concert of the Season. Continuing the seasons-long programme dedicated to Gustav Mahler's music, the American maestro will conduct the Austrian composer's Third Symphony. **Myung-Whun Chung** will return with three concerts: in the first the *Pastorale* together with the *Sacre du printemps* by Igor Stravinsky; in the second the Fourth Symphony by Johannes Brahms and the Triple Concerto by Beethoven which he will also perform as solo pianist alongside Roberto Baraldi on violin and Emanuele Silvestri on cello; finally, in the third, the Korean maestro will conduct Giuseppe Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* on the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its world premiere. To celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Anton Bruckner, **Hartmut Haenchen** will conduct his Fourth Symphony, known as the *Romantica* while **Alpesh Chauhan** will hold the baton for the Eighth Symphony. **Ivor Bolton** will conduct a concert with music by Cherubini and Haydn that will end with Mozart's *Requiem*. For the first time at La Fenice, **Rudolf Buchbinder** will be both conductor and solo pianist, and will play Beethoven's Third and Fifth Concerto for piano and orchestra. **Nicola Luisotti** will conduct a new commission assigned to Fabio Massimo Capogrosso for the seven hundredth anniversary of Marco Polo's death and Mahler's First Symphony *Titan*. **Stanislav Kochanovsky** will conduct a program dedicated to Russian music, with Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, which will be performed by the winner of the 2023 Paganini Prize, and with Shostakovich's Symphony No. 6. Once again Beethoven will be featured in the concert conducted by **Daniele Rustioni**, with the Ninth Symphony on the occasion of the two hundredth anniversary of its composition: there will be three repeat performances, the last of which is on the day of the *Festa della Repubblica*. Familiar faces who will be returning include **Diego Fasolis** with a concert dedicated to Antonio Vivaldi, **Markus Stenz** – with Vikram Francesco Sedona, winner of the XXXII Concorso Città di Vittorio Veneto, and with a Wagnerian program – and **Alfonso Caiani** in a concert with the Teatro La Fenice Choir with *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff in the version for choir, two pianos and percussion. The Spanish conductor **Juanjo Mena** will make his debut at La Fenice, with a programme of music by Rachmaninov and Lutosławski and with the pianist Nicolò Cafaro, winner of the XXXVIII Premio Venezia, as soloist interpreter of the 'Rach3'. Our guest orchestra this season is the highly acclaimed **Haydn Orchestra of Bolzano and Trento**, which will be conducted by **Kent Nagano**. This new Season also includes the **Christmas Concert** in the Basilica of San Marco and in the Cathedral of Mestre, with **Marco Gemmani** and the Marciana Chapel; the **New Year's Concert** with the musical direction of **Fabio Luisi**, which will be broadcast live on Rai1; and then there is the symphonic concert in **Saint Mark's Square**, in the middle of summer. Finally, the collaboration with the Patriarchate of Venice will continue with the second edition of the sacred music festival *La Fenice in the Church of San Fantin*, which will take place between April and May 2024.

As regards ticket information: sales for the shows of the Season will begin on Monday 4 September. The renewal of pre-emption season tickets is possible for the Opera and Ballet Season from Monday 25 September to Wednesday 25 October 2023 while the date for Symphony Season

LA FENICE

renewals is from Monday 16 October to Thursday 16 October 2023. New season tickets for the Opera and Ballet Season can be purchased from Monday 25 September until the date of the first performance in the season while for the Symphony Season sales start on Monday 16 October until the date of the first concert.

Last but not least, the programme also includes a prestigious *tourn ee*: *Madama Butterfly* by Giacomo Puccini, one of the most acclaimed productions of recent years, will be staged at the **Ljubljana Festival** next July 13, 2024 with the suggestive 2013 production by La Fenice directed by Alex Rigola and shot by Cecilia Ligorio, with sets and costumes by the Japanese artist Mariko Mori, which was a special project of the fifty-fifth International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale. The Orchestra and Choir of the Teatro La Fenice will be conducted by Daniele Callegari, with a cast that includes Monica Zanettin, Manuela Custer and Vincenzo Costanzo in the main roles.

Main partner of the Season is Intesa Sanpaolo.

For more information visit www.teatrolafenice.it

LA FENICE

2023-2024 Opera and Ballet Season

The season will open with ***Les Contes d'Hoffmann* by Jacques Offenbach**, a title that has not been on La Fenice's billboards since 1994. Opéra-fantastique in a prologue, three acts and an epilogue by Jules Barbier, *The Tales of Hoffmann* was inspired by the homonymous play by Jules Barbier, taken in turn from a *pièce* written in 1851 together with Michel Carré that drew inspiration from the three fantastic-demonic tales of E.T.A. Hoffmann (*The Sandman*, *The Lost Reflection* and *The Cremona Violin*). *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* will be staged at the Teatro La Fenice in a new production by Damiano Michieletto with musical direction by Antonello Manacorda and the Teatro La Fenice Orchestra and Choir. In the main roles: Ivan Ayon Rivas, Alex Esposito, Carmela Remigio, Veronique Gens, and Rocío Pérez. The staging – an international production in co-production with the Sidney Opera House in celebration of its fiftieth anniversary, the Royal Opera House of London and Opéra de Lyon – will take place on 24, 26, 28, 30 November and 2 December 2023.

Once again, the new year will bring with it important dance dates: La Fenice will present ***Les Saisons* (The Seasons)**, with choreography by **Thierry Malandain** freely inspired by Antonio Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* which combines the music of the Red Priest with the *Four Seasons* by the contemporary composer Giovanni Antonio Guido. Two very different scores, united by their aim to celebrate nature, and which is why they have attracted the creative inspiration of the 'neoclassical' French choreographer, who previously drew inspiration for his previous works from his research and exploration of the relationship between man and nature. The production will be performed by his company, the Malandain Ballet Biarritz, while the music, performed live by the Teatro La Fenice Orchestra, will be conducted by Stefan Plewniak who will also be solo violinist. A co-production of Fenice and Opéra Royal de Versailles, Festival de Danse de Cannes, Opéra de Saint-Etienne Teatro Victoria Eugenia, Ballet T Ville de Donostia San Sebastian and Malandain Ballet Biarritz, the production will be staged at the Teatro La Fenice on 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 January 2024.

A title that is performed extremely rarely (the last time in Venice dates back to 1956) ***Maria Egiziaca* by Ottorino Respighi** will also be staged. A mystery in three episodes to a libretto by Claudio Guastalla, it is an opera that was inspired by the medieval legend of a woman, Mary, who enjoyed the most unbridled freedom in her youth, only to be irresistibly attracted by the cross of Christ so that repented and purified, she spent the rest of her life in a desert in prayer, until she died. Full of archaic features, with echoes of Gregorian chant, Renaissance and Monteverdian music, the opera debuted in concert form at Carnegie Hall in New York on March 16, 1932, while it was proposed for the first time in stage version at Teatro Goldoni in Venice in August of the same year. The new production will be directed by Pier Luigi Pizzi with the musical direction by Manlio Benzi. The main characters include Francesca Dotto and Vincenzo Costanzo. There will be five performances at Teatro Malibran on March 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16, 2024.

LA FENICE

A fundamental title in the history of Italian melodrama, *Mefistofele* by Arrigo Boito is also in the programme. Once again, the last time it was performed in Venice was years ago, in 1969. The opera is divided into a prologue, four acts and an epilogue, to a libretto by Boito himself, based on Goethe. *Mefistofele* debuted at Teatro alla Scala in Milan on 5 March 1868 as a lyrical ‘manifesto’ of the new aesthetic ideals of Wagnerian inspiration proclaimed by the young Paduan writer and musician, in polemical opposition to Verdi's theatre. Boito was considered the leader of the Scapigliato intellectualism of the Lombard capital, and in his enthusiasm for the themes of Germanic culture saw the literary source of *Faust* as a possible way of creating the ambitious project of revitalising Italian opera. After the abject failure of the première, Boito went back to work on the score, and it was with the ‘Wagnerian’ version in Bologna in 1875 that the opera was rehabilitated. *Mefistofele* will be staged in a new production with direction by Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier and with musical direction by Nicola Luisotti. Boasting an outstanding cast, in the main roles are Piero Pretti, Maria Agresta and Alex Esposito. There will be five performances at Teatro La Fenice on April 12, 14, 17, 20 and 23, 2024.

As far as Baroque music is concerned, our discovery of Vivaldi operas continues: after *Dorilla in Tempe* (2019), *Farnace* (2021), *Griselda* (2022), and *Orlando furioso* (2018, 2023), there will be a new production of *Il Tamerlano*. A tragedy to music in three acts to a libretto by Agostino Piovene, inspired by the figure of the powerful sultan of the Ottoman Empire Bajazet and the Mongolian leader Tamerlane, it was composed by Vivaldi as a pastiche, that is to say the score was a combination of not only pre-existing pages by the composer but also of other composers. At that time this was a consolidated practice and does not detract from the irresistible incisiveness of Vivaldi's writing in the least. It debuted during the 1735 Carnival season, at the Teatro Filarmonico in Verona. In Venice we will see a new production by two specialists in this repertoire: the conductor Diego Fasolis and the director Fabio Ceresa. Renato Dolcini will play the role of Bajazet. *Il Tamerlano* will be at the Malibran Theatre on 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 June 2024.

Coming to the twentieth-century repertoire, we have *Ariadne auf Naxos* by Richard Strauss. A one-act opera with prologue to a libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal inspired by the myth of Ariadne, this composition was initially conceived as an operatic *divertissement* for a performance of Molière's *Bourgeois gentilhomme*. In the initial project the opera was meant to be performed at the palace of the protagonist of the comedy, making it a perfect example of theatre in the theatre. It was in this form that the opera debuted on 25 October 1912 in Stuttgart. However, the public appreciated the opera more than the comedy and Hugo von Hofmannsthal decided to separate the two pieces, making *Ariadne* independent, and adding a Prologue in order to maintain the expedient of theatre in the theatre. In its new form *Ariadne auf Naxos* then debuted in Vienna on 4 October 1916. The new production, co-produced with the Teatro Comunale di Bologna, is with direction by Scottish director Paul Curran, while musical direction will be by Markus Stenz. Principal singers include Sara Jakubiak, John Matthew Meyers, Olga Pudova, Markus Werba

LA FENICE

and Anna Lucia Richter. There will be five performances at the Teatro La Fenice, on 21, 23, 25, 27, 30 June 2024.

2024 will mark a double anniversary, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Arnold Schönberg's birth and the centenary of the birth of Louis Nono: La Fenice Phoenix will celebrate the two great masters of modern music with a diptych that combines *The illuminated factory* by Luigi Nono and *Erwartung (Expectation)* by Arnold Schönberg. Composed for female voice and magnetic tape, with highly politicized texts by Giuliano Scabia and a fragment of *Due poesie a T.* by Cesare Pavese, *La fabbrica illuminata* is a 1964 composition that debuted at none other than Teatro La Fenice in Venice on September 15, 1964, sung by the mezzo-soprano Carla Henius and with Nono as sound director, for the twenty-seventh edition of the International Festival of Contemporary Music. *Erwartung* by Arnold Schönberg is a one-act monodrama set to four libretto scenes by Marie Pappenheim that can be considered the first example of expressionist musical theatre: it debuted at the Deutsches Landestheater in Prague on 6 June 1924. The diptych will be staged in a new production, directed by Daniele Abbado with the musical direction of Jérémie Rhorer. There will be five performances at Teatro La Fenice on 13, 15, 17, 19 and 22 September, 2024.

The opera season will close with a new production of *Vita è sogno* by Gian Francesco Malipiero, another long-awaited score on the Venetian stage since its last performance dates back to 1944. The composition of the work in three acts and four scenes, free translation, and reduction by Malipiero himself of the Spanish philosophical-theological play (1635) by Pedro Calderón de la Barca, dates back to 1941 but had its world première at the Wrocław Opernhaus on 30 June 1943 before coming to Venice the following year, in April 1944. The performance will be directed by Valentino Villa with musical direction of Francesco Lanzillotta. The principal roles include Veronica Simeoni and Leonardo Cortellazzi. It will be staged at the Malibran Theatre on 31 October, and 3, 5, 7, 9 November 2024.

As part of the Education program dedicated to the public of schools, young people, and families, two contemporary music titles are included in the programme, one of which is a revival while the other is an absolute novelty. After its success in 2019 there will be a revival of *Pinocchio*, a musical fairy tale by the Vicenza composer Pierangelo Valtinoni to a libretto by Paolo Madron and freely inspired by *The Adventures of Pinocchio* by Carlo Collodi. This is the successful production by the young and innovative director Gianmaria Aliverta, with Marco Paladin holding the baton. Together with the Teatro La Fenice Orchestra, the White Voices Choir of the Piccoli Cantori Veneziani will also take part. Principal singers include Michela Antenucci and Matteo Ferrara. The opera will be performed at the Malibran Theatre on 18, 19, 20, 24 January 2024.

In addition, an absolute novelty for Venice will be *Marco Polo*, an opera by the composition students of the Benedetto Marcello Conservatory of Venice that will be staged as a world première to mark the seven hundredth anniversary of the death of the famous Venetian traveller and writer. The orchestral and choral ensembles of the Conservatory itself will take part, conducted by Luisa Russo, while the direction

LA FENICE

will be by Emanuele Gamba. This production is also a continuation of the collaboration between La Fenice and the Venice Academy of Fine Arts as the students from the institute of higher education will design and create both the scenes and costumes. Furthermore, the production will make use of the extraordinary participation of Roberto Capucci for the costumes. It is programmed at the Malibran Theatre on 18, 19, 20, 21 April 2024.

The highly acclaimed productions of La Fenice's repertoire will also be returning, with the revival of four titles that are some of the most popular with opera buffs. *The Barber of Seville* by **Gioachino Rossini** will be revived in the production directed by Bepi Morassi and scenes and costumes by Lauro Crisman, with Renato Palumbo as musical director and a cast with Marina Comparato, Ruzil Gatin, Alessandro Luongo and Omar Montanari in the main roles. Eight performances have been programmed: 26, 28 January, and 1, 3, 7, 9, 11, 13 February 2024. The second revival is *Don Giovanni* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with the production by Damiano Michieletto and under the musical direction of Robert Treviño, with Markus Werba, Alex Esposito, Zuzana Marková, Francesca Dotto and Francesco Demuro in the main roles. There will be nine repeat performances: 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 May 2024. Finally, the programme also includes two works by Giacomo Puccini, marking the centenary of his death: *La Bohème*, in the production by the director Francesco Micheli, with the direction of Stefano Ranzani; the main roles include the soprano Claudia Pavone, the tenor Celso Albelo, the baritone Alessio Arduini and the bass Adolfo Corrado; five performances are programmed: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 February 2024. Finally, the last opera title is *Turandot*, with direction by Cecilia Ligorio and the musical direction of Francesco Ivan Ciampa, with Josè Maria Siri, Fabio Sartori and Michele Pertusi in the main roles. The performance will be staged after the summer break on 30 August, 3, 8, 14, 18 September 2024.

For more information visit www.teatrolafenice.it