

SYMPHONY OF ART

International
Multi-Genre
Festival

02-08/09
2024
BRATISLAVA



INTRODUCTIONS

„This year's festival presents not only its genre diversity, but also the fact it is a festival of Slovak and European culture. We have been members of the European Union since 20 years, and therefore we set an example in cultural festival and artistic programs.

We are introducing artists whose homeland is Europe. Those artists who represent European art all over the world. Hosting the most demanded tenor Jonas Kaufmann is one of the highlights of our efforts to provide world-class art.“

Andrea Kozáková
director and founder
of the festival



"I cannot still believe soon we introduce in Ružinov district already the fourth year of such an exceptional event as the Symphony of Art is. There is no doubt we can proudly compete similar events in any other metropolis thanks to the ability of bringing together world-renowned stars, thematically attractive concerts and high quality production.

The talent of musicians whose homes are the most respected scenes around the world and their involvement on stage will surely make every visitor happy.“

Martin Chren
Mayor of city district Ružinov

02 September / 18:00

MOYZES QUARTET in mansion

chamber concert

Csáky's mansion in Prievoz

03 September / 18:00

CLASSICS ON PIER

chamber concert and dance

Pier on the lake Štrkovec / free entry

04 September / 19:00

Bratislava Hot Serenaders/SMILE

concert and introduction of a new album SMILE

Amphitheater at the lake Štrkovec

05 September / 19:00

HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC MUSIC

Martin Gyimesi

and symphonic concert of cult film hits

Pradiareň 1900 square

06 September / 19:00

BROADWAY & WEST END meet JAZZ

World musical scene in Pradiareň 1900

Pradiareň 1900 square

07 September / 11:00

A FAIRYTALE ON PURE HAPPINESS

A symphonic fairytale for the little ones

Pradiareň 1900 square

07 September / 19:00

LOVE SONNETS

prose, music, poetry in a symphonic version

Pradiareň 1900 square

08 September / 19:00

JONAS KAUFMANN & Slovak Philharmonic

Opera superstar for the first time in Slovakia / Closing gala concert

Pradiareň 1900 square

PROGRAM

02 SEPTEMBER

MOYZES QUARTET in mansion

chamber concert



Since its foundation in 1975 it has been one of the most famous chamber ensembles in Slovakia. The Quartet members are graduates of the Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Bratislava and their studies continued at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. The Quartet repertoire encompasses all style periods including works of contemporary Slovak composers, many of whom directly dedicated their pieces to the Quartet. The quartet will play the works of the most famous musical masters such as Mozart, Bach, Dvořák and Piazzola.

Program of the concert:

1. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Little night music
2. Johann Sebastian Bach: Air
3. Antonín Dvořák: Quartet No. 12 „American“
4. Astor Piazzolla: Libertango, Oblivion
5. Carlos Gardel: Por una Cabeza

Moyzes Quartet

Since its foundation in 1975 it has been one of the most famous chamber ensembles in Slovakia. The Quartet members are graduates of the Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Bratislava (T. Gašparek). Their studies continued at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna (F. Samohyl, G.Pichler).

During their studies the Quartet was already awarded several laureate titles in domestic as well as international contests (Evian). In 1998 they were awarded the Prize of Brazilian Composers for the best CD of Brazilian chamber music (G.Bauer, H.Crowl). In the years 1986 – 2005 the Moyzes Quartet belonged to the ensembles of the Slovak Philharmonic. They successfully represented Slovak music culture in almost all European countries, Japan, India, Morocco, the USA, Canada, the Faroe Islands and Cuba. In 2000 the Moyzes Quartet was awarded the Frico Kafenda Prize and at the same time the Critics Prize. In 2015 the ensemble won the prestigious Prize of Tatra Bank Foundation for arts. In 2016 they were awarded the Slovak Minister of Culture Prize.

The Quartet repertoire encompasses all style periods including works of contemporary Slovak composers, many of whom directly dedicated their pieces to the Quartet. In recent years the Quartet has given concerts at festivals: Bratislava Music Festival, Melos-Étos, Prague Spring, and New Slovak Music and in Bad Kissingen and Salzburg.

Throughout their existence the Quartet have given concerts in major music halls of the world: Schauspielhaus – Berlin, Mozarteum – Salzburg, Gewandhaus - Leipzig, Teatro Colon – Madrid, Cathédrale Saint-Louis des Invalides – Paris, Merkin Hall – New York, Walter Hall – Toronto, Musikverein – Vienna, Auditorium – Rome, Small Hall of Shostakovich Philharmonic – St. Petersburg. They gave concerts also in Barcelona, Brussels, Budapest, Kiev, Milan, Munich, Moscow, Osaka, Prague, Tokyo, Warsaw, Geneva, e.t.c.

The Moyzes Quartet has also recorded music to several successful Slovak films. Since 2006 the Moyzes Quartet was the chamber ensemble of the town Modra. Since 2008 it has been the chamber ensemble of the town Skalica. For 40 years 1. Violin of the Moyzes Quartet was Stanislav Mucha, since 2016 it is Jozef Horváth.

18:00, Csáky's mansion in Prievoz
Tickets available on predpredaj.sk
The concert without intermission

**02 SEPTEMBER
CLASSICS ON PIER**

chamber concert and dance



This year's concert on the lake will be a combination of classical music and ballroom dancing. Waltz, Viennese waltz, foxtrot, rumba, or salsa will be accompanied by the Ladies Ensemble in cooperation with DanceArt dance school.

The Ladies Ensemble

is the Slovak women's chamber orchestra founded in 2014 by the fusion of young beautiful professional musicians. During their performances you discover the classical music is far from boring, but is full of life, joy and emotions, and that popular modern music in orchestral arrangements acquires a new original dimension and allure!

The artistic director of The Ladies Ensemble is the Slovak violinist Anežka Kara – Drmolová, who performed solo with the Slovak Philharmonic at the age of 14. Members of the orchestra are the professional players of Bratislava symphony orchestras. They performed in Paris in 2019 as part of the OECD global meeting. In 2020, during the quarantine period, they played several successful benefit concerts "ART BEHIND THE WINDOWS" in various Bratislava main town districts: for group of seniors in Petržalka district in the presence of the President of the Slovak Republic - Zuzana Čaputová. The Ladies Ensemble is on yearly basis the part of the Symphony of Art festival and during the last season 2023 they played an open air concert Evening of Tango in the presence of 600 spectators.

In January 2024, they sold out non-sponsored film music concert in Bratislava's Starsauditorium for 800 participants under the baton of conductor Lukáš Kunst and in cooperation with the women's choir Les Sirénes. The Ladies Ensemble performed also together with James Evans as part of the Bratislava Cultural Summer and on August 14, 2024 they organized a big summer open air concert in Bratislava under the name The Ladies and friends with guests.

Dance School DanceArt led by Karol Brüll

DanceArt keep an eye on everything new in the world of dance, while professional instructors emphasize the choice and quality of music and new choreography. Karol Brüll works as a lecturer, coach and trainer of dance, creator of programs merging emotions, psyche and movements in dance.

18:00, Pier on the lake Štrkovec
free entry

The concert without intermission

02 SEPTEMBER

Bratislava Hot Serenaders / SMILE

concert and introduction
of a new album SMILE

During the concert The Bratislava Hot Serenaders Orchestra, which has been performing for 33rd sea-son, will ceremoniously introduce its 14th album presenting new works and new titles in the unique au-thentic sound of the orchestra.



Bratislava Hot Serenaders

belongs to the list of the few strictly "early jazz" oriented bands in the world. The band's 20 enthusiastic musicians have played together without interruption since the formation of the group in 1991. Their playing adheres to the sound, style, and feel of such orchestra's as Paul Whiteman, Jean Goldkette, and Duke Ellington, in addition to featuring Czech, Slovak, and other European classic jazz tunes of the period. The Bratislava hot Serenaders are well established outside of Slovakia. In 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018 the band embarked upon a 14-21 day tour of the U.K., performing at the Marlborough Jazz Festival, Edinburgh Jazz Festival, and Glasgow Vintage Festival to name but a few.

The Orchestra Bratislava Hot Serenaders have recorded fourteen CD albums, four Vinyls and the first Slovak music DVD. Two Slovak CDs became best-sellers - the first one winning a platinum CD, the second winning a gold CD. Lonely Melody won Radio_Head Award, and I Like That Esprit Prize 2018.

19:00, Amphitheater at the lake Štrkovec

Tickets available on predpredaj.sk

The concert without intermission

05 SEPTEMBER
HOLLYWOOD CLASSIC MUSIC

Martin Gyimesi and symphonic concert
of cult film hits



ROBO
OPATOVSKÝ

MIRKA
GÁLIS
PARTLOVÁ

MARTIN
GYIMESI

A symphonic concert full of the most famous hits of ever living film classics performed by Martin Gyimesi, his guests: Mirka Gális Partlová, Robo Opatovský, symphonic orchestra and choir, arranged by Barak Shmool. Unforgettable songs from the films such as Ghost, Top Gun, Dirty Dancing, Breakfast at Tiffany's, Star is born, The Lion King and others will be heard. On this exceptional evening, world film melodies will be presented for the first time also in a new arrangement of Slovak lyrics. The festival supports talented Slovak lyricists, who will premiere their work on the stage of the Symphony of Art festival.

Performing:

Martin Gyimesi, Mirka Gális Partlová, Robo Opatovský,
Festival symphonic orchestra a vocal group, Conductor: Vlado Valovič

Martin Gyimesi

Martin Gyimesi begun singing at the age of six as a member of the Bratislava Boys' Choir under the direction of conductor Ms. Magdaléna Rovňáková. At the same time he attended Primary Art School where he learned to play the recorder and later the alto saxophone. He returned back to music while studying an opera singing at the State Conservatory in Bratislava, first in the class of Professor Mr. František Livor, then in the class of Professor Mr. Gurgen Ovsepián. He then continued the studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava in the class of Professor Ms. Ľubica Rybárska.

In years from 2013 to 2022, he was a member of the solo ensemble of the Slovak National Theater in Bratislava. In 2019 Martin completed two tours in Japan accompanied by the State Opera performing in Don Pasquale and Tosca. Martin Gyimesi is also a guest artist of ensembles such as the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Slovak Philharmonic, Žilina State Chamber Orchestra, Lúčnica Art Ensemble, the Choir of the City of Bratislava, Cultus Ružinov, State Philharmonic of Košice, the Chamber Orchestra of the City of Bratislava and the Metropolitan Orchestra of Bratislava.

Moreover, he cooperates in educative concerts for youth The story of music „Opera flies“ under the baton of conductor G. Rovňák. In period of 2015-16 he was a soloist in the project Antonín Dvořák - Saint Ludmila, which took place in the Haydnssaal (Eisenstadt) under the patronage of Anna Netrebko. There he performed the role of Kay in the opera The Snow Queen (Die Schneekönigin) of the contemporary Russian composer Sergej Banevich, directed by Christiane Lutz and conducted by Karsten Januschke. He is currently portraying the character of Karol Duchoň in the successful musical „Play on my heart!“.

He portrayed the character of Fenton (G. Verdi: Falstaff) under the direction of the Oscar-winning director Jiří Menzel, State Theater of Košice. He also portrayed the character of Don Ottavio (W. A. Mozart: Zauberflöte) and cooperated with the National Theater in Prague performing the role of Tybalt (Ch. Gounod: Romeo and Juliet), Don Louisa (E. Von Reznicek: Donna Diana). Since 2015, he has been a regular guest at the Moravian-Silesian National Theater in Ostrava, as Junoš (B. Smetana: Brandibori in Bohemia), Tinca and Gherard (G. Puccini: Il Trittico) and Il Conte Bandiera (A. Salieri: La scuola de' gelosi), Harlequin and Licht in V. Ullman's one-act plays (Die Kaiser von Atlantis and Der Zerbrochene krug).

Mirka Gális Partlová

is the Slovak theater and television actress, she completed music and drama studies at the State Conservatory in Bratislava. Her first musical character was Ophelia in the musical Hamlet at the Nová Scéna theater. This role was followed by the character Anna in the musical Cage of Fools, Criss in the musical Hair, Minnie Fay in Hello Dolly, Anička in Painted on Glass. Later on, at Nova scéna, she played the main characters in the musicals Rebels (Tereza), Don't Take Us the Princess (Katka), West Side Story (Maria), The Fountain for Zuzana (Zuzana), The Eighth Continent (Jana), Romeo and Juliet (Mother Capulet), Cats (Demeter), IAGO (Desdemona).

She also performed in The Slovak National Theater in the play House over the Ocean, as well as in Arena Theater in the musical Dirty Dancing (Baby, Eva) and in the operetta Beneath the Foreign Flag. She also performed at the Cassovia Theater in the musical The Ratcatcher (Rozi).

We could have seen her for several years on TV screens as Angie in the series Apartment Block. She was successfully performing in the TV show Your face sounds familiar (year 2017).

Currently, she is actively engaged only in musical and music production. Matters of the heart include the characters of Roxana in the musical Cyrano of the Suburbs and Rachel Marron in the famous musical The Bodyguard, comprising Whitney Houston's songs. She cooperates with various musical establishments such as vocal group - the StarTrack trio or the Cinemagic Band orchestra - magical film music.



Robo Opatovský

Graduated at Conservatory of Bratislava under the mentoring of teacher and concertmaster Jozef Zsapka. After finishing the studies he began to devote himself fully to singing. In 1996, he launched the cooperation with the production trio formed by Ľubo „Artist“ Priehradník, Berco Balogh and Jozef Gregor, with whom he recorded his first significant hits „Heartbreaker“ and „It Doesn't Matter“. His next collaborator was the Czech producer Daniel Hádl, with whom he released the first album „Robo Opatovský“ (1997) and a year later „Nebol som zlý (I was not Bad)“ (1998). Third album named „True Face“, was published in 2000.

In course of the years 2002 and 2003 Robo alternately lived in Japan and Slovakia and during this busy period of his life the materials for the big record „Prílev energie“ (Energy Inflow) had been gathered and created. Opatovský added another record into his discography in March 2005. The album was called „V tom zvláštnom sne“ (In that strange dream). However, the breakthrough in his career was the record „Swing and Latin“ presenting Robo's songs and classic world hits in new unique swing and Latin-jazz arrangements. The next album „Vianočný album“ (Christmas album) was released in 2009. All of Robo's major hits are recorded in his the best album „2009 – 1996“, which includes two new songs „Prší“ (It Rains) - adapted as a duet with the Czech singer Monika Bagárová and „Niečo máš“ (You've got something). With this song Robo made it to the Slovak final of the international song competition Eurovision Song Contest 2010. Another album called „2012“ carries the series of dance hits. In 2012 Robo composed the anthem for the Slovak Paralympians. In 2014, Robo Opatovský's self-titled album with the singles „Blízko ťa mám“ (You are beside), „Neverná“ (Unfaithful), „Milovaná“ (Beloved) and „Môj život“ (My Life) were released. The last named song became the official anthem of the Slovak Paralympians over the 2014 Sochi Paralympics. On 20th March 2015 Robo's project - a CD called Robo Opatovský & OVERTIME was released and followed in 2016 by the album Christmas duets, for which Robo received a platinum award. The album called ROBO OPATOVSKÝ UNPLUGGED released in 2018 carry the hit „Keď muž miluje ženu“ (When a man loves a woman), the song written in cooperation with Oľga Záblicka, who is the author of lyrics. Next Robo's albums are: MODLÍM SA HUDBOU (2020-2010) (I pray by Music), Christmas album „Šťastné a veselé“ (HAPPY AND MERRY) for which Robo was awarded by gold record. The last album entitled NIE SOM IDEÁLNY CHLAP (I'm not an Ideal man) includes the hits such as Muž a žena (Man and Woman), Ruku na srdce (The Hand on the Heart), a duet with Marián Čekovský Po čom ženy túžia (What women want).

19:00, Pradiareň 1900 square
Tickets available on predpredaj.sk
The concert without intermission

06 SEPTEMBER
BROADWAY & WESTEND meet JAZZ

World musical scene in Pradiareň 1900



Musical hits in non-classical arrangements performed by representatives of the main characters of the world's musical scenes from New York's Broadway and London's West End. Songs from classic as well as new musicals such as Tina, Les Misérables, West Side Story, Hamilton, The Phantom of the Opera and many others will be heard and accompanied by Gustav Brom Radio Big Band and a string section conducted by Vlado Valovič.

Performing:

Christian Mark Gibbs and Kimberly Marable (Broadway), Nadim Naaman and Elesha Moses (West End), Gustav Brom Czech Radio Big Band with string section, Conductor: Vlado Valovič

Vlado Valovič, Conductor



He was born on May 9th, 1945 in Slovakia. After completion of his music education studies he started his career as a Recording Director in Czechoslovak Radio in Brno and Bratislava. In Brno he got in first contact with famous Czech conductor, Gustav Brom, and started up cooperation with his Gustav Brom Orchestra. In 1974 Vladimír Valovič established his own music band, VV System, with main focus on jazz and pop music and attended many jazz festivals around the Europe and Latin America.

In 1983 he became a Conductor of the Czechoslovak Radio Big Band in Bratislava and conducted and cooperated also with many radio big bands abroad, e.g. in Berlin, Zagreb, Katowice and Ljubljana. As conductor he attended and performed on Eurovision song contest in Dublin and Birmingham. In 1994 he accepted an offer from Gustav Brom to cooperate with the Gustav Brom Big Band as a conductor. After death of Gustav Brom, Vladimír Valovič replaced him and became leading Conductor of the Gustav Brom Big Band. With this orchestra he regularly attends concerts around Europe and performs in programmes of the Czech, Slovak, Polish televisions and German MDR. During his music career he cooperated with famous jazz musicians, such as James Morrison, Jiggs Whigham, Zbigniew Namysłowski, New York Voices, Billy Cobham and others.

Nadim Naaman

is a British actor, singer, playwright, composer. He is known for his work in musical theatre. Naaman made his professional stage debut as Jamie Wallerstein in the 2007 Edinburgh Fringe Festival production of the musical *The Last Five Years*. The following year, he made his West End debut when he took over as Rolf Gruber in *The Sound of Music* at the London Palladium. He subsequently performed as Sweeney Todd (Harrington's Pie & Mash Shop, Shaftesbury Avenue) and in *One Man, Two Guvnors* (Theatre Royal, Haymarket), *The Sound of Music* (London Palladium), *Titanic* (Princess of Wales, Toronto and Southwark Playhouse), *Chess* (The Union), *Marguerite* (Tabard), *Knight Crew* (Glyndebourne), *James and The Giant Peach* (The Watermill) and *The Last Five Years* (Pleasance). Moreover, he played the role of Bertie Wooster in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Alan Ayckbourn's *By Jeeves* (The Old Laundry Theatre). He sings the main role - the Phantom in the musical *The Phantom of the Opera*. His recent studio album *Sides* immediately reached number one on the iTunes UK Vocal Chart and got the hearts of fans around the world. He was recently appointed a member of the prestigious Royal Academy of Music, confirming his significant contribution to the arts.

Christian Mark Gibbs

Guyanese-American Broadway Actor and Metropolitan Opera tenor, Christian Mark Gibbs, lauded for his "handsome, sardonic presence and his suave traversal of the vocal lines" (Opera News) as well as his "strikingly handsome tenor and brilliant performances" (Broadway World), is quickly establishing himself as an artist to watch in various mediums including Opera, Musical Theatre, TV/Film, and Commercial. He made his international debut by performing an iconic role of Tony in West Side Story at the Savoy-teatteri in Finland.

This success shoot him to the world of grand opera stages. In 2020 he made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Robbins and Crab Man in the prestigious GRAMMY Award-winning production of Porgy and Bess.

Kimberly Marable

An actress, singer and dancer has spent over 15 years as a working actor. Her Broadway appearances include The Lion King and Sister Act, and as an original cast member of the TONY and GRAMMY Award winning musical Hadestown on Broadway where she understudied Persephone and a Fate. Recently, Kimberly originated the role of Persephone in the 1st National Tour of Hadestown. Kimberly has appeared on FBI, BULL, NPR Music's Tiny Desk Concert series, and numerous television specials, including the 85th & 93rd Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades and the 73rd Annual TONY Awards. Kimberly is the voice of Lorelai in the Netflix Anime series, Cannon Busters and does promotional voice overs for numerous television networks.

Elesha Paul Moses

Actress, singer and songwriter Elesha Paul Moses has been successfully in the music business for over 20 years through traditional entertainment programs and television talent shows. Elesha appeared on The X Factor in 2010, alongside the huge sensation, One Direction and winner Matt Cardle. In 2013 Elesha also appeared on The Voice and reached the battle rounds, where she worked with will.i.am in a duo and then appeared for a second time with Tom Jones as a solo act a year later. She has previously been mentored by Mathew Knowles, Beyonce's father, on a Channel 4 talent show.

Further incredible credits including working with superstar Lionel Richie, industry steadfast Nicky Graham and writing and performing with the house production duo Ku De Ta. 2021 was an incredible year for Elesha as she appeared in the lead role in Tina musical – The Tina Turner Musical in London.

19:00, Pradiareň 1900 square
Tickets available on predpredaj.sk
The concert without intermission

07 SEPTEMBER

A FAIRYTALE ON PURE HAPPINESS

A symphonic fairytale for the little ones

Concert of the most known Walt Disney fairytale songs



Being happy is great! But what if you still haven't found your four-leaf clover? At a concert full of imagination of the author and conductor Gabriel Rovňák, you meet fairy-tale creatures that are familiar to entire generations. They reveal to us the secret of pure happiness, which we all long for.

Performing:

Simona Augustovičová, Dávid Árva, Fairytale Orchestra

Winners of the children's festival competition:

Natashka Tassa, Miška Genčúrová, Ela a Vivien Marušákové, Vilko Jaroš

conductor: Gabriel Rovňák

Costume designer: Janka Kaňák Šuchovenová

11:00, Pradiareň 1900 square

Tickets available on predpredaj.sk

The concert without intermission

07 SEPTEMBER
LOVE SONNETS

prose, music, poetry in a symphonic version



José Cura, the world-famous tenor from Argentina, is a guest of the festival for the third time. Last years he presented himself as a singer and conductor in operatic and popular positions. This time we meet him as a composer. José Cura is deeply addressed by the relationship between Pablo Neruda, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, and Matilda Urruti. Neruda captured all his passion and love in his One hundred Love Sonnets. In 2006, in honor of Pablo and Matilda's great love, he composed the musical-dramatic work "If I die, survive me". Cura set 7 nocturnal sonnets into music and is also the author of Matilda's lines that will be recited by Slovak actress Emília Vášaryová.

PABLO NERUDA (1904 - 1973)

When Ricardo Neftalí Reyes y Basoalto, a Chilean student studying French, wanted to hide his identity as the author of his early poems from his strict father, he used a pen name derived from the Czech poet Jan Neruda, most probably after being enchanted by his story *At the Three Lilies*. To this surname he added the first name of the unforgettable lover from Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Paolo Malatesta, slightly altered to Pablo. So it was in 1971, that he accepted the Nobel Prize for literature as Pablo Neruda. Throughout his entire colourful life, he wrote love poetry, culminating in *One Hundred Love Sonnets*, written in 1959 and inspired by Neruda's last partner in life, his third wife Matilde Urrutia. The compilation is in four parts: Morning in which the amorous affection takes shape; Midday when the love affair turns into matrimony; Afternoon, full of fiery conflicts; and Night, which brings thoughts of ageing, illness and death. Apart from the masterly form and original metaphors, Neruda's poetry is very musical, not only thanks to the choice of words, but also the speech sounds and the frequent use of alliteration and anaphors. This, among other features, attracted the Argentinean tenor José Cura, who in 2006, as homage to Matilda and Pablo's great love, composed a musical-literary drama *If I die, Survive me!* for singer, actress and piano. Cura orchestrated the piece, and the new version is now experiencing its Slovak premiere. Cura's music first serves all of the words. The singer's line carefully guards every meaning and the orchestra also remains in its role as faithful accompanist. Cura set seven 'night' sonnets to music, hence the overall melancholic atmosphere of the piece in which Matilda, upon returning from her husband's funeral, in her reflections – through poetry – remembers her husband.

Cura is also the author of Matilda's replicas, inspired by her memoirs and correspondence.

The second half of the concert will be dedicated to the music of José's native Argentina.

Performing:

José Cura and Emília Vášáryová,
Barbora Kubíková, guitar
Győr Philharmonic Orchestra,
Conductor: Mario De Rose

Program of the concert:

1. José Cura: Si muero, sobrevíveme!
Intermission 20 min.
1. Hilda Herrera: Desde el fondo de ti
2. María Elena Walsh: Postal de guerra
3. Alberto Ginastera: Canción del árbol del olvido
4. Carlos Guastavino: Prestáme tu pañuelito
5. Carlos Guastavino: Cortadera, plumerito
6. Carlos Guastavino: ¡Qué linda la madreSelva!
7. Carlos Guastavino: Concierto para un Resurgir, Yo, maestra,
8. Carlos Guastavino: Ya me voy a retirar
9. Carlos Guastavino: Cuando acaba de llover
10. Carlos Guastavino: Alegría de la soledad

PROLOGUE OF JOSÉ CURA

January 1995. Palermo, Italy

The role of Paolo il Bello in Riccardo Zandonai's opera Francesca da Rimini, inspired by Dante's Divine Comedy, is one of the most romantic opera roles. I found the book on the table in my dressing room with a dedication: "For you, who sings about love: words on love". I opened it randomly. "When I die, I want your hands on my eyes", wrote Pablo Neruda to his wife Matilda.

The first two songs sprang up immediately, hurriedly. As if the words had been waiting for me. Then came an enforced pause. My singing career accelerated, and my life turned into a whirlwind. In 1999 we moved to Madrid. During the move I lost track of my Neruda. In 2002, when arranging the library, I found it among many books waiting to be put in their right place. And I opened it again randomly, "If I die, survive me...", urged the poet. Among my old sheet music, I found a musical motif which perfectly fit the Sonnet 94. I admit, it was an effort to develop it – my writing tools turned rusty not having been used for a long time. I left Neruda lying on the piano, determined to continue the composition. But... Four years elapsed. In 2006 my adolescent daughter found the book. This time don Pablo Neruda had come back to remain. And his returns were exactly the impulse I needed. After eleven years I completed the cycle.

IF I DIE, SURVIVE ME!

Poetry by Pablo Neruda Music and texts by José Cura

MATILDE

With my husband buried, I return to our hideout on Isla Negra. I can hardly describe what I feel as I open the door to go into the house. All is silent. At last, I realize my tremendous loneliness. I feel cold; it is the cold of Pablo's absence, which is starting to become reality in all its magnitude. I wander through the house until I get to his office; there is a living presence in this place.

The room greets me as if it wanted to tell me something. I watch the sea through a window; the very same sea that once seemed playful and cheerful to me, now scares me with its roar. I am worn out. I collapse exhausted into Pablo's reading chair. Scattered on his desk, I encounter the manuscripts of the sonnets that he dedicated to me. How is this possible, since I personally archived these papers years ago, protecting them lovingly with rice paper before putting them away...?

PABLO

Sonet 92

My love, if I die and you don't,
my love, if you die and I don't,
let's not give pain a wider territory:
there is no expanse like the one we live in.

Dust in the wheat, sand in the deserts
time, wandering water, the vague wind
took us on like sailing seeds.
We could have missed each other in time.

This meadow where we find ourselves,
O, small infinity! we give back.
But this love, Love, isn't over

and just as it didn't have a birth
it has no death: it is like a long river,
it only changes lands and lips.

Sonet 83

It's good, Love, to feel you close to me in the night,
invisible in your sleep, earnestly nocturnal,
while I disentangle my worries
as if they were intermingled nets.

Distracted, your heart sails through dreams
but, thus abandoned, your body breathes,
looking for me without seeing me, completing my dream
like a plant propagating in the dark.

Upright, you will be someone else living tomorrow,
but from the frontiers lost in the night,
from that being and not-being that we found,
something remains, steeling us in the light of life
as if the seal of darkness marked
its secret creatures with fire.

MATILDE

The sun is setting. The shadows fall slowly, inexorably. Terrified, I think of the night. I feel like I'm about to be trapped in a huge black hole. I start to cry. The tears roll down my cheeks; I do not bother to dry them because they make me feel better. I keep reading.

PABLO

Sonet 79

By night, Beloved, moor your heart to mine
and let them both defeat the darkness in their sleep
like a double drum fighting in the forest
against the thick wall of wet leaves.

Nocturnal travel, black ember of dream,
intercepting the string of the earth's grapes
with the punctuality of a wild train
that would sweep away darkness and cold stones, incessantly.

Because of this, Love, tie me to the pure motion,
to the tenacity that beats in your chest
with the wings of a swan underwater,
so that those starry questions posed by the sky
may be answered by our sleep with a single key,
with a single door closed by darkness.

MATILDE

Eventually the darkness sets in. I look out through the windows and see some eyes. They are your eyes, my Pablo, that contemplate me with a tenderness beyond words. I want to touch you. I bend forward and leand my head against the window...

PABLO

Sonet 90

I thought of myself dead, I felt the cold up close,
and of my life was only leaving you behind;
your mouth was my terrestrial day and night
and your skin the republic founded by my kisses.

In that instant, all the books ended,
friendship, treasures relentlessly amassed,
the transparent house that you and me built:
everything ceased to exist, except your eyes.

Because love is, while life harasses us,
simply a tall wave above other waves,
but O when death comes knocking at the door

there is only your glance against so much emptiness,
only your clarity against extinction,
only your love to shut out the darkness.

MATILDE

I need to breathe: I leave the room and go outside; the fresh air will do me good. I sit down on the same rock on which my husband and I used to watch the sunsets. So many memories... The scenes of our life together pile up in my mind. Panic hits me. I feel like I am drowning in a chaotic and meaningless universe. Then, at the height of my distress, I sense Pablo's presence and his silent shout which comes to my aid:

PABLO

Sonet 94

If I die, survive me with such a pure force
that it awakes the fury of pallor and cold,
from south to south, raise your indelible eyes,
from sun to sun, let your mouth resound like a guitar.

I don't want your laugh nor your footsteps to waver,
I don't want my legacy of joy to die,
don't call to my breast: I'm not there.
Live in my absence as in a house.

Absence is such a large house
that you will walk through its walls
and will hang pictures in the air.

Absence is such a transparent house
that, dead, I will see you live
and if you suffer, my love, I will die again.

MATILDE

The verses that Pablo wrote for me, oh, painful prophecy, shelter me, protecting me from everything and everyone. I DO NOT WANT MY LEGACY OF JOY TO DIE!, shouts my beloved poet...

PABLO

Sonet 95

Whoever loved each other as we did? Let us search
for the ancient cinders of the burnt heart
and there, let our kisses fall one by one
until the uninhabited flower resurrects.

Let us love the love which consumed its fruit
and descended to earth with its image and power:
you and me are the continual light,
its unyielding, delicate ear.

Let us bring to that love, interred by so much cold time,
by snow and spring, by oblivion and autumn,
the light of a new apple, the light
of freshness open by a new wound,
like that ancient love that walks in silence
through an eternity of buried mouths.

Sonet 89

When I die, I want your hands on my eyes:
I want the light and wheat of your beloved hands
to pass their freshness over me once more:
feeling the softness that changed my destiny.

I want you to live while I, asleep, wait for you,
I want your ears to keep hearing the wind,
to smell the aroma of the sea we loved together
and that you keep walking on the sand we walked on.

I want that which I love to keep living
and you, I loved and sang you above all things,
that is why, keep flourishing, my flourished,
so that you can reach all which my love commands you,
so that my shadow can walk along your hair,
so that everyone can know the reason for my song.

English version by Ben Cura and Monica Belew

JOSÉ CURA

WORLD-FAMOUS FOR HIS INTENSE AND ORIGINAL INTERPRETATIONS OF OPERA CHARACTERS, AS WELL AS FOR HIS UNCONVENTIONAL AND INNOVATIVE CONCERT PERFORMANCES, TENOR JOSÉ CURA IS A FAMILIAR NAME ATOP THE MARQUEES OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS THEATERS.

After studying composition and conducting in his home town, Rosario, José Cura moved to Buenos Aires in 1984 to hone his skills. To gain insights into stage life, he worked in one of the professional choirs at the Teatro Colón from 1984 to 1988, where his voice developed into the distinctive bold and bright tenor with tints of dark baritone that led him to international fame. In 1999, José Cura resumed his conducting career, working with top orchestras like the London Philharmonia, the London Symphony, the Vienna Philharmonic, Sinfonia Varsovia, the Toscanini Orchestra, and the Hungarian Philharmonic, among others, performing operatic and symphonic works, thrilling audiences with his performances both in the pit and on stage. 2007 saw the world-premiere of *La Commedia è finita*: the creative re-imagining of Pagliacci coupled with dance and mime, designed and directed by José Cura, marked the beginning of his career as a stage director and designer. In 2010 he set designed, directed and starred in *Saint-Saëns' Samson et Dalila* at the Badisches Staatstheater, crafting an innovative, modern take on the classic. The production is available on DVD. The unanimous plaudits of the audience and critics for his *La Rondine* at the Opéra de Nancy and *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* at the Opéra Royal de Wallonie, both in 2012, sealed his stature as a director of distinction.

In 2013, his production of *Otello* at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires was selected as one of the most successful productions of the year by international voting. His show "A Scandinavian bohème" (2015), a new production of Puccini's *La bohème* for the Royal Swedish Opera, was considered by the press and public to as being one of the most successful productions ever to have been presented at the prestigious opera house. In Autumn 2016, his production of *Turandot* at the Opéra Royal de Wallonie, received enormous acclaim. In 2017, his co-production of *Peter Grimes* in Bonn and Montecarlo, in which he also debuted the title role, was labeled as "... A masterful evening". Lately, in 2018, his new production of *Nabucco* for the Prague State Opera was claimed to be "... A brilliant and thoughtful and integrated fusion of sets, lighting and costumes.", and his new production of *Fanciulla del West* was premiered to great acclaim at Tallinn's opera house. 2014 was marked by José Cura's return to his activity as a composer: in November, the South Bohemian Opera premiered his *Stabat Mater*, written in 1989 and in Easter 2015, after his return as Don José at La Scala, the world premiere of his *Magnificat*, written in 1988, took place at the Teatro Massimo di Catania.

From 2015 to 2018, Maestro Cura was appointed "Artist in Residence" of the Prague Symphony Orchestra. As part of his commitments with the prestigious Czech ensemble. There he conducted the world premiere of his triptych *Ecce Homo*, in March 2017 and in September 2017, the world premiere of *Modus* (the Kyrie of his Requiem Mass) as well as the symphonic version of Ariel Ramirez's famous *Misa Criolla* and *Navidad Nuestra*, commissioned by Ramirez himself. In February 2019, Maestro Cura was appointed the first "Principal Guest Artist" – singer, composer and conductor – in the history of the Hungarian Radio Art Groups. Together with the Hungarian institution, he recently recorded the oratorio *Ecce Homo*, and on January 29th 2020, he conducted the world premiere of his *Montezuma* and the *Red Priest* "opera buffa ma non troppo", at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest. The hiatus in his stage work that followed – imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic– gave José Cura the time to complete two pending composing projects: a *Te Deum* and a guitar concerto. His *Te Deum*, drafted in 2019 and orchestrated in 2020, was successfully premiered with the London Philharmonia and the Bucharest Radio choirs in September 2021 during the Enescu festival, and his *Concierto para un Resurgir*, for guitar and orchestra, was premiered in September 2021, in Saarbrücken, together with his *Symphonic Suite* based on his opera *Montezuma* and the *Red Priest*. José Cura's *Requiem Mass*, *Requiem æternam*, for triple choir, soloists and orchestra, has been successfully premiered in Budapest the 9th of May 2022, with the MTVA art groups and the Hungarian National choir.

In 2015, José Cura was honored by the Argentinean Senate, with the Domingo Faustino Sarmiento Prize for his achievements in education and culture and in 2017 he was entitled Professor Honoris Causa of the National University of Rosario, Argentina, where he followed his composer studies in the decade of 1980.

Emília Vášáryová

Emília Vášáryová was born in Horná Štubňa. In 1963, she graduated from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. Afterwards, she became a member of the New Stage Theatre in Bratislava, and since August 1964, she has been a member of the SND Drama Theatre. The audience had the opportunity to see her in several other Slovak and Czech theatres: Studio L+S, Aréna Theatre, GUaGU, National Theatre Prague, Pavol Országh Hviezdoslav Municipal Theatre Bratislava. She collaborates with radio, film and television. She has performed in many television productions, series and films. From 1990 to 2020, she worked as a teacher at the Department of Acting at the Theatre Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts. In June 1999, she was appointed as a University Professor in Theatre Arts and Science - Acting.

Emília Vášáryová's the most important awards include:

- 1983 – Andrej Bagar Award (for creating the character of Iphigenia in the production of J. W. Goethe's Iphigenia in Taurid, 1982)
- 1991 – Award of the Minister of Culture (for excellent results in acting)
- 1999 – Crystal Wing Award for the year 1998 in the category of theatre art (for the portrayal of Agnes in E. Albee's play A Delicate Balance)
- 1999 – Golden Loop – the best female dubbing (for the voice performance of Shirley McLain in The Guardian of Mrs. Tess)
- 1999 – The DOSKY Award: The Best Actor Award (for the character of the Old Woman in the production of E. Ionesco's play The Chairs)
- 2000 – Jozef Kroner Award (for the most outstanding acting performance in 1999 for the character of the Old Woman in the production of E. Ionesco's play The Chairs)
- 2000 – winner of the press poll Actress of the Century
- 2000 – Igric Award for original audiovisual creation (for the character of Máša in the STV TV production The Cage)
- 2000 – Literary Fund Award (for the character of the Old Woman in the production of E. Ionesco's play The Chairs)
- 2001 – Actor's Mission (Trenčianske Teplice Art Film)
- 2002 – State award of the Order of Ľudovít Štúr I. class
- 2002 – The DOSKY Award: Award for the best performance by an actor (for her portrayal of Maria Callas in the production of T. McNally's play The Master Class of Maria Callas)
- 2003 – State Honour the Medal of Merit
- 2004 – The DOSKY Award: Best Actor Award (for her portrayal of Stevie in E. Albee's The Goat or Who is Sylvia?)
- 2005 – Czech Lion: Best Actress in a Leading Role in the film Up and Down
- 2007 – Literary Fund Award for Lifetime Achievement
- 2008 – OTO 2007, Lifetime Achievement Award – The Hall of Fame
- 2010 – Honorary Doctorate of the Janáček Academy of Performing Arts Brno (Doctor Artis Dramaticae Honoris Causa)
- 2010 – ELSA Television Award in the category Original Dramatic Works - Actress for her performance in Archive (ČT1)
- 2011 – The Flower of Thalia (as part of the Anička Jurkovičová Festival)
- 2016 – the Slovak National Film Award for the film Eva Nová – Sun in the Net
- 2018 – Literary Fund Award for the character of Mrs Peters in the production of Before Sunset



Mario De Rose **Conductor - Composer**

Born in Buenos Aires (Argentina), with Italian Nationality he got his Degree in Composition from the Argentinean Catholic University's School of Music. Mario De Rose wrote many works that were premiered by Argentina's leading orchestras, chamber ensembles and soloists. He composed more than 60 pieces. After conducting in the most important theaters of Argentina, he traveled to Europe. Since 2003 she lives in Vienna. He has conducted opera and concert in the main theaters of Europe, China and Korea.

Among them are the theaters of Wiesbaden and Hannover in Germany, Comunale di Bologna in Italy, Tenerife and Santander in Spain, Nancy in France, among others.

Since 2005 he works with the famous artist Jose Cura, with whom he has made numerous opera productions and concerts. Between 2011 and 2021 was General Music Director at the Southbohemian Theater in Czech Republic. Between 2022 and 2024 he conducted the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, and Gala concerts in in Pesc (Ungarn) and Gdansk (Poland) with Jose Cura

2023 Concerts with Neue Streiche, In Vienna, Austria.

2023 Opera Tosca, by Puccini, in Malta, with the direction by José Cura.

2024 Veszprem Festival, Hungarn, Gala concert.

Barbora Kubíková

Barbora Kubíková (born 18 May 1998 in České Budějovice, Czech Republic) is one of the most talented guitarists of her generation. She started to play the classical guitar at the age of six. In 2019, she graduated from Patrick Vacík's class of the Conservatory České Budějovice. Since then, she has continued her studies at Hochschule für Musik Franz Liszt in Weimar, Germany, in the class of maestro Ricardo Gallén, and privately with the worldfamous Argentinian singer and maestro, José Cura, himself an ex-guitarist.



She is the winner of several national and international competitions: Concertino Praga 2013 (CZ), Zruč nad Sázavou 2009 (CZ), Praguitarra Clásica 2010 (CZ), competition of Czech Education Ministry 2011, Guitartalent Brno 2011 and 2012 (CZ), Karl Ditters z Dittersdorfu a hudební klasicismus 2016 (CZ), Anna Amalia 2015 (Weimar, DE), Enrico Mercatali 2015 (Gorizia, IT); and has also earned important awards (EMCY Prize 2013 for outstanding and unique musical performance). In 2018, she was awarded the second prize in the competition "Play with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra". As a soloist, she has performed with many of Czech leading orchestras (Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra SOČR, South Czech Philharmonic, Orchestra of South Bohemian Theatre, West Bohemian Symphony Orchestra, North Czech Philharmonic). She has also performed several times in the most prestigious Prague concert halls: Dvořák Hall of the Rudolfinum and at the Smetana Hall of the Municipal House. In 2015, she played her recital in Chengdu, China.

Since 2017, Barbora has been cooperating with José Cura with whom she has performed with Prague Symphony Orchestra, Dresdner Kapellsolisten, Würth Philharmoniker, Musikkollegium Winterthur, Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra. In January 2019, she made her Spanish solo debut in Lérida, performing Joaquín Rodrigo's "Concierto de Aranjuez", under the baton of maestro José Cura and accompanied by the Orquestra Simfònica Julià Carbonell de les Terres de Lleida.

In September 2021 she had her recital and gave lessons during the International Guitar Festival in Arroyo de la Luz in Spain. Also in September 2021 she performed the world premiere of the new guitar concerto „Concierto para un Resurgir“ composed by Maestro José Cura, in Saarbrücken, accompanied by the Saarländisches Staatsorchester. In April 2022 she made her debut in USA, in Bloomington (Indiana), during the 11th Indiana Guitar Festival and Competition.



Győr Philharmonic Orchestra

The professionals of classical music are familiar with the names of Artur Nikisch, world-famous conductor and founder of several well-known European and American orchestras, and János Richter, world-renowned conductor, but just a few of those know that both of them were connected by thousands of ties to the city of Győr which hosts Győr Philharmonic Orchestra. The career of Artur Nikisch began here, then he became one of the most significant characters of the musical life of the era, whereas in 1862 János Richter's father, Antal Richter established the predecessor of Győr Philharmonic Orchestra, the Song and Music Association of Győr, which became the Orchestra of the Municipality of the city of Győr in 1894, then several years later the semiprofessional art institution was transformed into a professional concert orchestra.

After changing the director and the concept in 2008 the Győr Philharmonic Orchestra renewed, and the latest success story of the Orchestra began since then. By now the work of the Orchestra is characterized by professionalism, innovative solutions, and international standard, which provides world class professional qualities to its partners, audience, soloists and guest conductors who have worked with it, by realizing the objectives of the founders of the Orchestra according to the spirit of the current era. The performances of the Orchestra were followed by great successes nearly in all European countries, and it has even managed to gain the professionals and the audience's considerable recognition on the most significant stages of Asia, in China, South Korea and Taiwan.

The Orchestra went on a successful tour to the Far East and Europe with the legendary Italian film music composer and conductor, the Oscar winner Ennio Morricone in the spring of 2009, furthermore the Ensemble gained special professional recognition as it was chosen and nominated to be the residence orchestra of the Hungarian gala of Operalia, the international opera competition, established by Plácido Domingo. The Orchestra has been conducted by famous Hungarian and international maestros over the past decades including Alpaslan Ertüngenalp, Michalis Economou, Angelo Epfrikian, Lamberto Gardelli, Zoltán Hamar, Arvid Jansons, Mariss Jansons, András Keller, Kobayashi Ken-ichiro, Zoltán Kocsis, János Kovács, András Ligeti, Ludovít Rajter, Yuri Simonov, Gilbert Varga, Carlo Zecchi, Alastair Willis, Attilio Tomasello... We have entertained our audience with worldfamous soloists including Alexandru Agache, Kristóf Baráti, Gergely Bogányi, Gábor Boldoczki, András Csáki, Jörg Demus, Annie Fischer, Walter Fraccaro, Endre Gertler, Ida Haendel, Jenő Jandó, Cyprien Katsaris, Zoltán Kocsis, Michael-Martin Kofler, Mikhail Pletnev, Ildikó Komlósi, József Lendvay, Gyöngyi Lukács, José Curam Olesya Petrova, Bobby McFerrin, Erika Miklósa, Aga Mikolai, Sándor Nagy, Jevgenyij Nyesztyerenko, Zoltán Orosz, György Pauk, Miklós Perényi, Dezső Ránki, István Ruha, Vilmos Szabadi, Gilbert Varga, István Várdai, György Vukán, The King's Singers, Bernadett Wiedemann...

In addition to keeping the standard classical-traditional pieces on its rich repertoire, the Orchestra is able to perform popular music by combining it with its professionalism. According to the expectations set forth to this regional, cultural ensemble and top musical institution of the region, it serves simultaneously as a classical-traditional orchestra, a crossover film band, an outdoor or gala orchestra, a smaller or bigger chamber orchestra and possibly a concertbrass and reed band.

The Director of the Győr Philharmonic Orchestra has been Géza Fűke since July 2008, the Artistic Director of the Orchestra has been Kálmán Berkes, Liszt Award and The Gold Medal of the Grammy Prize holder clarinet player and conductor, who has been the professor and conductor of Musashino Academy of Music, Tokyo, between 1992 and 2017. The chief conductor of the Orchestra has been Martin Rajna since January 2021.

The programme was supported
by the National Cultural Fund
of Hungary (NKA).



National
Cultural
Fund
of Hungary

19:00, Pradiareň 1900 square
Tickets available on predpredaj.sk
The concert with 20 min. intermission

08 SEPTEMBER

JONAS KAUFMANN & Slovak Philharmonic

Closing gala concert



© Gregor Holtenberg
Sony Music

Jonas Kaufmann is the most sought-after and most appreciated tenor of today. He presents himself to the Slovak audience for the first time accompanied by the Slovak Philharmonic. The native of Munich shines on the biggest and most famous opera stages. The most known characters this opera superstar portrayed are Otello, Don José from Carmen, Mario Cavaradossi from Tosca, or Parsifal from Wagner's opera Parsifal.

The Telegraph: „World's Greatest Tenor.“

New York Times: „Voice of bright upper tones, a mixture of masculinity and tenderness in his singing.“

Telerama: „He performs in each role with such investment that it makes the viewer think that this is the last performance.“

Performing:

Jonas Kaufmann, Slovak Philharmonic, Conductor: Jochen Rieder

Program of the concert:

1. Vincenzo Bellini: Norma, prelude
2. Amilcare Ponchielli: Cielo e mar, Act II: Enzo's Aria, Opera La Gioconda
3. Amilcare Ponchielli: Act 3: Dance Of The Hours, Opera La Gioconda
4. Georges Bizet: La fleur que tu m'avais jetée,
Don José's Aria, Act 2. Opera Carmen
5. Georges Bizet: Carmen, suite
Entr'acte Act 3
Entr'acte Act 4
Prelude
6. Giacomo Puccini: E lucevan le stelle, Cavaradossi's Aria, Act 3,
Opera Tosca
7. Giacomo Puccini: Manon Lescaut, intermezzo, Act 3
8. Uberto Giordano: L'Improvviso, Andreu Chénier's Aria Act 1 of the Opera
Intermission 20 min.
1. Franz Lehár: The Land of Smiles, prelude to an operetta
2. Franz Lehár: Dein ist mein ganzes Herz, Prince Sou-Chong,
Act 2 of operetta The Land of Smiles
3. Emmerich Kálmán: Zwei Märchenaugen,
4. Johan Williams: Superman March (From Superman film)
5. Ennio Morricone: E più ti penso , from Once Upon a Time in America film
6. Ennio Morricone: Nella fantasia The Mission film
7. Hans Zimmer: Nelle tue mani, Gladiator film

Jonas Kaufmann

Hailed as "the world's greatest tenor" by The Telegraph, Jonas Kaufmann has performed over 70 roles in the world's leading opera houses. The New York Times has described him as having "clarion top notes, the blend of virility and tenderness in his singing," and praised his "refined musicianship." Not only a great vocal technician, his performances are also praised for their dramatic impact, "He embodies each role with such an investment that he makes the viewer think that this is the last time he will perform this work." (Telarama). One of today's greatest interpreters of Lieder repertoire, Kaufmann is also in very high demand in concert. His performances and recording have earned him multiple honors and awards including eleven ECHO/OPUS Klassik awards, "Singer of the Year" from multiple classical music magazines including Opernwelt, Diapason and Musical America. He has been knighted as a Chevalier de l'Ordre de l'Art et des Lettres, and has been named a member of the Bayerischer Maximiliansorden. In 2022 he was appointed Austrian Kammersänger, in 2024 he received the Ordre de la Légion d'honneur.

Last season, Kaufmann has appeared at the Bavarian State Opera (Peter Grimes and La Fanciulla del West), the Vienna State Opera (Andrea Chenier and Aida), Zurich Opera (Tosca), La Scala Milan (Andrea Chenier), Teatro San Carlo in Naples (Die Walküre) and the Royal Opera House in London (Werther), among others. He also made his long-awaited role debut as Tannhäuser at the Salzburg Easter Festival. To mark the festival's centenary, Kaufmann gave a concert in the Arena di Verona, together with Sonya Yoncheva and Ludovic Tézier. At the beginning of the new season he presented a special project with Helmut Deutsch and director Claus Guth at the Park Avenue Armory in New York: Doppelgänger, a staged interpretation of Schubert's Schwanengesang. Following a series of Otello and a new production of Turandot at the Vienna State Opera Kaufmann performed the first act of Die Walküre in the End-of-the-year concerts with the Berlin Philharmonic and Kirill Petrenko, a series of concerts (The Sound of Movies) in Baden-Baden, Prague, Naples and Wiesbaden, new productions of La Gioconda at the Salzburg Easter Festival and at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, performances of Aida and Tosca at the Bavarian State Opera and Andrea Chenier at the Royal Opera House. Planned performances until the end of the season include concerts of Act 2 of Tristan and Isolde in Gstaad and Baden-Baden. A voice which excels in a large variety of repertoire, Kaufmann has received recognition for his performance of French, German and Italian roles, as well as his performance in recital. Standout roles include Don José, Werther, Don Carlo, Otello, Andrea Chenier, Maurizio, Lohengrin, Parsifal and Florestan, which he has performed at houses such as Teatro alla Scala, Covent Garden, the Bayerische Staatsoper, the Metropolitan Opera, Opernhaus Zürich, Opéra national de Paris, and the Wiener Staatsoper. He has released multiple recordings, also encompassing diverse repertoire, including operatic repertoire, Lieder, operetta, and more. A native of Munich, Germany, Jonas Kaufmann completed his vocal studies there at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater München, in addition to which he attended master classes with Hans Hotter, James King and Josef Metternich. During his first years on stage at the State Theatre in Saarbrücken he continued his training with Michael Rhodes in Trier.

Jochen Rieder

Teatro alla Scala, Carnegie Hall and Frankfurt's Alte Oper – Jochen Rieder is a regular guest in many of the world's leading opera houses and concert halls, collaborating with some of today's most admired soloists and orchestra.

An enthusiastic artist widely recognized especially for his work with German and Italian repertoire, Maestro Rieder has lead critically acclaimed performances and CD productions across the world.



Regular collaborations include some of the greatest singers of our time, such as Peter Seiffert, Waltraud Meier, Leo Nucci, Agnes Baltsa, Jonas Kaufmann, Renée Fleming, Nina Stemme, Thomas Hampson, José van Dam, Matthias Goerne, Matti Salminen and Michael Volle.

Over the years, a long and intense musical partnership has become established with tenor Jonas Kaufmann. Together, they have performed at the Royal Festival Hall in London, the Barbican Centre, the Philharmonie of Berlin, Laeiszhalle Hamburg, Philharmonie of Munich, the Stuttgart Liederhalle, Baden-Baden's Festspielhaus, Vienna's Konzerthaus, the KKL Lucerne, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Essen Philharmonic Hall, Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, Peralada Festival, Seoul Arts Center in South Korea, Menuhin-Festival Gstaad/CH, the Royal Opera House Muscat/Oman, the Konzerthaus Dortmund, the Alte Oper Frankfurt, the Sydney Opera House/Australia, the Movistar Arena Santiago de Chile/South America, Teatro Real Madrid, Schlossfestspiele Regensburg, the Tchaikovsky Conservatory Moscow, the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Osaka Festival Hall, the Suntory-Hall Tokyo, the Waldbühne Berlin, the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, the Carnegie Hall New York, the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg and the Arena di Verona.

He conducts numerous renowned orchestras, including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra Filarmonica della Scala Milano, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Rundfunk-Sinfonie-Orchester Berlin, Bruckner Orchestra Linz, RAI Symphony Orchestra, Prague Symphony Orchestra, Residentie Orkest The Hague and BBC Symphony Orchestra.

The Slovak Philharmonic

was established in 1949. Two internationally reputed personalities, V. Talich (1949 – 1952) and Ľ. Rajter (1949 – 1976) stood at the orchestra's birth. Other chief conductors who have played an important role in the orchestra's musical evolution include T. Frešo, L. Slovák, L. Pešek, V. Verbickij, B. Režucha, A. Ceccato, O. Lenárd, J. Bělohávek, V. Válek, P. Feranec, E. Villaume a J. Judd. In the 2020/2021 season, Daniel Raiskin took up the position of Chief Conductor.

Among the many guest conductors who have worked with the Slovak Philharmonic over the years, international personalities like J. Ferencsik, W. Rowicki, V. Smetáček, K. Ančerl, F. Konwitschny, A. Jansons, V. Neumann, H. Abendroth, A. Pedrotti, Sir E. Goossens, Sir M. Sargent, R. Benzi, K. Masur, Sir Ch. Mackerras, C. Zecchi, S. Baudo, C. Abbado, K. Sanderling, Z. Košler, R. Muti, K. Richter, K. Kondrašín, L. Segerstam, A. Lombard, S. Celibidache, T. Sanderling, O. Danon, M. Rossi, N. Järvi, K. Kobayashi, J. Svetlanov, M. Jansons, Ch. von Dohnányi, D. Kitajenko, O. Suitner, J. Conlon, V. Gergiev, A. Rahbari, F. Luisi, Sir Y. Menuhin, P. Schreier, V. Fedosejev, R. Weikert, M. Caridis, P. Steinberg, P. Keuschnig, T. Hanus, J. Hruša, J. Valčuha, T. Netopil, I. Marin, P. Baleff, G. Pehlivanian, J. Märkl, I. Volkov, W. Marshall, E. G. Jensen, A. Buribayev must be mentioned, as well as composers and performers of self-penned works like J. Martinon, K. Penderecki and A. Khachaturian.

The orchestra has made numerous recordings for radio, television and music publishers OPUS, Supraphon, Panton, Hungaroton, JVC Victor, RCA, Pacific Music, Naxos and Marco Polo. The Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra regularly gives guest performances on leading European stages and festivals, as well as in Cyprus, Turkey, and the USA, and they regularly have concert tours in Japan, South Korea, Oman and United Arab Emirates.

In 2023, The Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra was on tour in Japan together with pianist O. Sheps and cellist T. Sasanum. At the end of the year, the orchestra toured South Korea together with pianist Y. Sunwoo. In February 2024, the orchestra played a concert together with pianist L. Marušić in Zagreb and Maribor. In the 2024/2025 season, the orchestra, accompanied by the chief conductor D. Raiskin, creates several recordings of works of F. Schmidt, E. Dohnányi and J. N. Hummel. The orchestra will perform at the opening concert of the Špilberk Festival and again at the Swiss Murten Classics festival. Important foreign activities include concerts in the Liederhalle Stuttgart, the Cologne Philharmonic and St. Stefan Domkirche in Vienna. The Slovak Philharmonic will also perform during the concerts in Slovak cities (Piešťany, Ružomberok, Nitra) and at the end the season at a festival in Český Krumlov together with the world-famous violinist Maxim Vengerov.

19:00, Pradiareň 1900 square

Tickets available on predpredaj.sk

The concert with 20 min. intermission

INFORMATION FOR VISITORS

Dear festival visitors, we would like you to takeaway for the festival only the beautiful experience and enthusiastic emotions. We would like the festival to be an ode to nobility and elegance that you will not experience in other types of art events. Enjoy the festival to full and let us to provide you with more detailed information to make it pass flawlessly.

A festival is an ode. The concerts are considered as festive events and therefore, we should express our respect to the event and the artists by proper clothing.

- Unless otherwise stated, the dress code of the festival is FORMAL, of course depending on the weather
- Organizer reserves the right not to allow entry to the event in case of inappropriate clothing
- We recommend that you use taxi or public transport; in case you drive your own car, the parking is possible for charge at the park zones of Nivy city district, Apollo hotel park area or Nivy Shopping Mall parking
- We do recommend you to arrive 30 minutes prior to event start to avoid a long wait
- gate opening is at 18:00 or 1 hour before the concert
- In case of later arrival - after the start of the event, you will be seated during the applause to the available seats so to avoid disturbance of other visitors
- When applying the fee discount, we may ask you to present a valid identity card or other relevant document

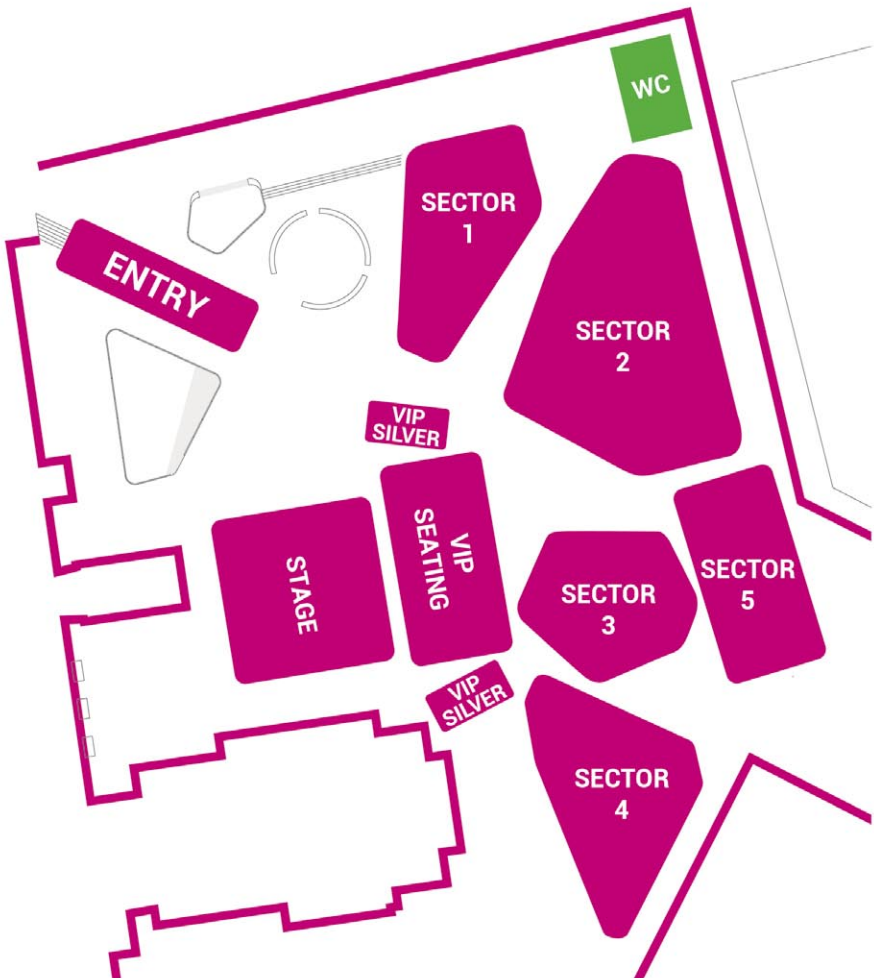
DURING THE CONCERT

- out of respect for the artists and other visitors, please avoid of all disturbing sounds such as ringing phones, rustling, talking, whispering, etc.
- during the concert it is not allowed to take photos and make sound or audio recordings since they may be disturbing for the artists - enjoy the experience of live concert
- no refreshments available during the concert, you can refresh yourself before, during the break and after the concert

SERVICE INFORMATION

- accommodation – Apollo hotel is the closest to the event venue
- toilets are within the Pradiaren 1900 area
- refreshment is available in the Wine corner
- in case of bad weather the organizer provides blankets and raincoats; umbrellas are not allowed

MAP OF THE FESTIVAL AREA







To all our friends, sponsors and supporters.
Thank you that you appreciate art.
Without your support the festival would not exist.

ORGANIZERS:



GENERAL PARTNER:

MAIN PARTNERS:



PARTNERS:



MAIN MEDIA PARTNER:

- RÁDIO
- SLOVENSKO

MEDIA PARTNERS:



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