

## **OPERA**

In its 237<sup>th</sup> theatre season the Bolshoi is presenting six opera premières, reflecting the Theatre's aspiration to create a broad-ranging, stylistically diverse repertoire. They include Russian classical opera masterpieces (Borodin's *Prince Igor*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Tsar's Bride*), highlights from 19<sup>th</sup> century Italian opera (Verdi's *La Traviata*, Bellini's *La Sonnambula*), French 20<sup>th</sup> century opera (Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*), as well as works by modern Russian composers (Sergei Nevsky's *Franziskus*).

### **Sergei Nevsky**

#### ***Franziskus***

New Stage

12, 13 September 2012

Director – Vladimir Bocharov

Conductor – Philip Chizhevsky

The Bolshoi Theatre is taking part in the *Contemporary Opera Laboratory* project, set up on the initiative of the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation and the *Opergroup* created by director Vassily Barkhatov. The project's aim is to attract public attention to the stage works of modern Russian artists and to give a new impulse to the development of contemporary Russian opera. Sergei Nevsky is one of the best known Russian composers of the generation of 40-year-olds: his music is performed at international festivals in Donaueschingen, Berlin (Berliner Festwochen, UltraSchall, Maerzmusik), Vienna (Wien Modern), Stuttgart (Eclat), Munich (Musica Viva), Amsterdam (Gaudeamus), Zurich, Madrid, Moscow (*Territory, The Other Space, Moscow Forum*) and St. Petersburg (*Pythian Games*).

### **Giuseppe Verdi**

#### ***La Traviata***

Main Stage

7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 October 2012; 9, 10, 11, 12 January 2013

Director – Francesca Zambello

Conductor – Laurent Campellone

In the main parts:

*Albina Shagimuratova, Alexei Dolgov, Vassily Ladyuk, Venera Gimadieva, Evgeny Nagovitsyn, Igor Golovatenko, Xenia Vyaznikova, Irina Dolzhenko, Marat Gali, Vasily Efimov*

One of the most highly sought after present-day opera directors, artistic director of the Glimmerglass (opera) Festival (USA), Francesca Zambello returns to the Bolshoi to produce *La Traviata*. Zambello's preceding productions for the Bolshoi – Puccini's *Turandot* and Prokofiev's *Fiery Angel* – won acclaim from both public and critics. Music director of the production is Laurent Campellone, a Frenchman, with Italian roots. This up and coming young conductor is known to Moscow music lovers thanks to his participation

in the autumn of 2010 in the concert performance of Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann* at the Moscow Philharmonia. The fine and rapidly acquiring international fame Russian soloists Albina Shagimuratova, Alexei Dolgov and Vassily Ladyuk, as well as the Theatre's Youth Opera Programme graduates Venera Gimadieva and Evgeny Nagovitsyn, will be among those in the cast.

### **Alexander Borodin**

#### ***Prince Igor***

Main Stage

*16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23 December 2012; 17, 18, 20, 21 April 2013*

Director – Yuri Lyubimov

Conductor – Vassily Sinaisky

In the main parts:

*Paata Burchuladze, Vladimir Matorin, Boris Statsenko, Veronika Dzhioeva, Elena Popovskaya, Elena Zarembo, Alexei Dolgov, Roman Shulakov, Vyacheslav Pochapsky, Mayram Sokolova*

The patriarch of Russian theatre directors, Yuri Lyubimov, with his vast experience in music theatre stagings, will present his version of Borodin's epic opera which has not been heard at the Bolshoi for close on ten years. In *Prince Igor*, Borodin's only opera in the Golden Treasury of Russian operatic classics and which does not have a canonic version, Lyubimov will emphasize the dramatic element, namely, he will play up the conflict between the Russian people and the Polovtsians. The production will be designed by the well-known Russian artist and scenographer Zinovy Margolin. Vassily Sinaisky, Bolshoi Theatre Music Director and Chief Conductor, a recognized expert on Russian 19<sup>th</sup> century music, will conduct. The performers will include both acknowledged masters of the Russian vocal school (Paata Burchuladze, Vladimir Matorin, Elena Zarembo), and the young Russian opera stars (Veronika Dzhioeva, Alexei Dolgov, Roman Shulakov).

### **Maurice Ravel**

#### ***L'enfant et les sortilèges***

New Stage

*18, 19, 20 January, 11, 12 May, 1 June, 6, 7 July 2013*

Director – Antony McDonald

Conductors – Alexander Solovyov, Alexei Bogorad

In the main parts:

*Ulyana Aleksyuk, Natalia Dmitrievskaya, Anna Aglatova, Svetlana Shilova, Xenia Vyaznikova, Alexandra Kadurina, Alina Yarova, Alexandra Kubas, Nikolai Kazansky, Vyacheslav Pochapsky*

With this production the Bolshoi Theatre fulfills its long-held dream of creating a vivid, colorful production for children. The first step towards this project was the October 2010 concert performance of *L'enfant et les sortilèges* with Bolshoi Theatre Soloists, Chorus and Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Benjamin Pionnier. In the upcoming season, the Theatre

presents a full-blooded production of the opera (in Russian) by the eminent English director and designer Antony McDonald, who works on a regular basis with leading opera houses and festivals – Paris Opéra, Netherlands Opera, the Grand Théâtre de Genève Opera House, Vienna State Opera, Los Angeles Opera, the Glyndebourne Opera Festival.

**Vincenzo Bellini**

***La Sonnambula***

New Stage

*6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 March, 10, 11, 13, 14 July 2013*

Director Pier Luigi Pizzi

Conductor – Enrique Mazzola

In the main parts:

*Laura Claycomb, Colin Lee, Nikolai Didenko, Ulyana Aleksyuk, Venera Gimadieva, Mathias Vidal, Oleg Tsybulko, Alina Yarova, Nina Minasyan*

This is the first time the Bolshoi Theatre has collaborated with the legendary Italian director and scenographer Pier Luigi Pizzi, one of the maitres of European opera production, who has produced operas at literally all the world's major opera houses – in the last ten years alone he has done stagings for Vienna State Opera, La Scala, London's Royal Opera, Deutsche Oper (Berlin), Madrid's Teatro Real, the opera houses of Trieste (Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi), Turin (Teatro Regio), Florence, Venice, Naples, Palermo, Las Palmas, Chicago. Responsible for the musical side of the production is the Italian conductor Enrique Mazzola whose performances at La Scala, Deutsche Oper, the Glyndebourne Opera Festival and the Bolshoi Theatre have won him great acclaim. In the lead parts are the American prima donna Laura Claycomb who is well known to Moscow music lovers, the South African Colin Lee, one of the world's leading tenors specializing in the bel canto repertoire, and the young soloists of the Bolshoi Theatre Opera Company, Ulyana Aleksyuk and Venera Gimadieva, and many others.

**Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov**

***The Tsar's Bride***

Main Stage

*1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 June 2013*

*A fundamental revival and new stage version of the Theatre's historical production*

Revival Director – Julia Pevsner

Conductor – Vassily Sinaisky

In the main roles:

*Anna Aglatova, Venera Gimadieva, Lolitta Semenina, Oksana Volkova, Svetlana Shilova, Elchin Azizov, Maxim Aniskin, Boris Rudak, Evgeny Nagovitsyn, Pyotr Migunov, Stanislav Mostovoy*

The only opera production in the Theatre's *Golden Treasury* to remain in the repertoire after the closure of the Main Stage for refurbishment, now returns to

Main Stage billboards – Fyodor Fyodorovsky’s legendary scenography is to be recreated anew on its original scale. The new stage version is by the Israeli director Julia Pevsner. In recent years Pevsner has actively collaborated with the Bolshoi Theatre (as assistant director to Francesca Zambello and David Pountney) and has experience of working on revivals and restorations of historical productions in the USA and Europe. The Bolshoi’s Music Director and Chief Conductor Vassily Sinaisky who, since his first season in his present post, has regularly conducted this production, is collecting together the Theatre’s experienced soloists and best young talents. Along with Leonid Baratov’s *Boris Godunov*, *The Tsar’s Bride* will be added to the Theatre’s collection of historical productions, representing the Bolshoi’s peak of achievement in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Current Repertoire**

The productions of the last two Theatre seasons will feature twice on the Theatre playbills – Tchaikovsky’s *The Enchantress* (September 2012 and March 2013), Richard Strauss’s *Der Rosenkavalier* (March and July 2013), Rimsky-Korsakov’s *The Golden Cockerel* (October 2012, April 2013). Glinka’s *Ruslan and Lyudmila* will be shown in April 2013 and Johann Strauss’s *Die Fledermaus* in February 2013.

Also in the repertoire: Prokofiev’s *The Love for the Three Oranges*, successfully revived after a two-year absence (November 2012), Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte* (February and June 2013), Bizet’s *Carmen* (January and July 2013), Tchaikovsky’s *The Queen of Spades* (May 2013). After a two-year absence, Verdi’s *Macbeth* is to appear again in the repertoire (May 2013). The most popular titles will appear regularly on the billboards – Mussorgsky’s *Boris Godunov* (November/December 2012, May 2013), Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin* (December 2012, June 2013), Puccini’s *Turandot* (February and June 2013).

### **Soloists**

Some of the guest soloists who will be appearing in the course of the season - **Melanie Diener, Tatiana Monogarova, Anna Stéphany, Vassily Ladyuk, Audun Iversen, Vladislav Sulimsky, Valery Alekseyev, William Dazeley, Birgitte Christensen, Stephan Genz, Alexander Teliga, Mikhail Gubsky, Alexei Tikhomirov, Yuri Minenko, Charles Workman, Anna Nechaeva, Mikhail Agafonov, Ekaterina Lekhina, Galina Shesterneva.**

**Debuts** will include – **Ailyn Pérez** (Puccini’s *La Bohème*), **Ekaterina Surina** (Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte*), **Feruccio Furlanetto** (Mussorgsky’s *Boris Godunov*). Both Company members and the Youth Opera Program graduates (**Alexandra Kadurina, Alina Yarova, Boris Rudak, Svetlana Kasyan, Konstantin Shushakov, Nadezhda Karyazina, Grigory Shkarupa, Evgeny Nagovitsyn, Nina Minasyan, Oleg Tsybulko**) will be actively engaged in the productions.

## **Conductors**

Bolshoi Chief Conductor and Music Director **Vassily Sinaisky** will be conducting the following productions: Borodin's *Prince Igor* (new production), Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Tsar's Bride* (fundamental revival), Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Golden Cockerel*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*, Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades*. In his capacity as Music Director, he will also be involved in the productions of the ballets *Ivan the Terrible* to music by Prokofiev and Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. In the course of the 237th season working alongside the Bolshoi's House conductors **Pavel Sorokin**, **Pavel Klinichev**, **Mikhail Granovsky**, **Alexei Bogorad** and conductor-probationer **Alexander Solovyov**, will be **Alexander Lazarev** (Tchaikovsky's *The Enchantress*), **Alan Buribaev** (Prokofiev's *The Love for the Three Oranges*, Borodin's *Prince Igor*, Tchaikovsky's *Evgeny Onegin*), **Kyrill Karabits** (Puccini's *La Bohème*, Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*), **Christopher Moulds** (Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*), **Christoph-Mathias Mueller** (Johann Strauss's *Der Fledermaus*, Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*), **Tito Chekkerini** (Puccini's *Turandot*) and others.

## **SYMPHONY CONCERTS and SPECIAL PROJECTS**

In the 2012/13 season, the Bolshoi Theatre Symphony Orchestra will be giving concerts at all Moscow's main venues – at the **Big Hall of the Conservatoire**, the **Tchaikovsky Concert Hall**, the **Svetlanov Hall at Moscow's International House of Music**.

On 8 October 2012, Vassily Sinaisky will be opening the season at the Big Hall of the Conservatoire – the program will consist of works by Haydn (Concerto in C major for cello and orchestra, soloist Pyotr Kondrashin) and Shostakovich (Symphony No. 4).

On 12 February 2013, at the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, Vassily Sinaisky will present a concert performance of excerpts from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* with the participation of young Bolshoi Theatre soloists and the Theatre's Young Opera Program artists.

On 31 March 2013, under the auspices of the Rachmaninov Music Festival at Moscow's International House of Music, there will be a performance of selected Rachmaninov Etudes-Tableaux and of the opera *Francesca da Rimini*; among the soloists taking part – **Anna Aglatova** and **Dmitri Beloselsky**; conductor – **Vassily Sinaisky**.

For the **200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory Day in the Patriotic War of 1945**, at a Gala Concert on the Bolshoi Theatre's Main Stage on 25 December 2012, the Theatre soloists, Chorus and Orchestra, conducted by Vassily Sinaisky, will present a program of works by Borodin, Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky.

In June and July 2013, the Bolshoi Theatre Opera Company will give several performances of *Eugene Onegin* (director - **Dmitri Tcherniakov**) at the Israeli Opera House (Performing Arts Center) in Tel-Aviv. Conductors will be

**Vassily Sinaisky and Alan Buribayev.**

## **BALLET**

In the 2012/13 season the Bolshoi Theatre Ballet Company will continue to pursue its main strategy which includes the following directions:

- The classical legacy of the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries
- The Bolshoi Theatre legacy of the Soviet period
- The legacy of Western 20<sup>th</sup> century ballet classics, never before staged at the Bolshoi Theatre
- New – in so far as possible original – ballets by the most famous contemporary choreographers
- Special projects
- Bolshoi Theatre Ballet Company Tours

### **Classical legacy of the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries**

The Bolshoi Ballet continues its policy of transferring to and reviving on the Main Stage ballets of the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century classical legacy. In particular, sets and costumes will be re-created for Minkus's *La Bayadère* and from 25 January 2013, the ballet itself will be performed on the Main Stage.

### **Bolshoi Theatre legacy of the Soviet Period**

On 8 November 2012 the première of a new revival of the ballet *Ivan the Terrible* to music by Prokofiev (choreography Yuri Grigorovich, scenography Simon Virsaladze) will be presented on the Main Stage. Negotiations were conducted with the Serge Prokofiev Foundation and the composer's heirs have kindly permitted the Theatre to re-stage this ballet.

### **The legacy of Western 20<sup>th</sup> century ballet classics**

In the upcoming season two masterpieces of 20<sup>th</sup> century ballet, never danced before at the Bolshoi Theatre, will be added to the repertoire.

The first première (4.10.2012) of the new season will be George Balanchine's *Apollon Musagète*. In this ballet the Theatre will present its leading soloists, including the American premier, David Holberg, who today is the world's best Apollo.

*Apollon Musagète* will be presented as part of a triple bill with Yuri Posokhov's *Classical Symphony* and Jorma Elo's *Dream of Dream* – the latter two ballets were premiered in the outgoing season. This is neo-classical ballet to the music of three outstanding 20<sup>th</sup> century Russian composers – Sergei Prokofiev, Igor Stravinsky and Sergei Rachmaninov.

John Cranko's ballet *Onegin* (12.07.2013) will close the 2012/13 ballet season. Though it is based on a Russian literary classic, this will be *Onegin*'s first showing in Russia and in the post-Soviet space in general. Following negotiations with the internationally acclaimed scenographer Jürgen Rose, the Theatre has managed to acquire rights to the latter's original sets and costumes, created in 1967 specially for the *Onegin* première.

### **New ballets by contemporary choreographers**

In the upcoming season the Bolshoi Ballet Company will collaborate with outstanding contemporary choreographers: working for the first time at the Bolshoi will be the Swedish choreographer Mats Ek (*Appartment*), while the Englishman Wayne McGregor, who in 2011 transferred his one-act ballet *Chroma* to the Bolshoi, will create an original ballet for the Company.

### **“One Hundredth Anniversary of *The Rite of Spring* – One Hundredth Anniversary of New Art” Festival**

From 27 March to 21 April 2013 the Bolshoi Theatre is holding a Festival dedicated to the one hundredth anniversary of Igor Stravinsky’s ballet *The Rite of Spring*.

During the Festival, the three most famous readings of this work will be presented on the Bolshoi Theatre New Stage: in choreography by Vaslav Nijinsky, Maurice Béjart and Pina Bausch.

Wayne McGregor will mount a new original version of *The Rite of Spring* for the Bolshoi Ballet Company.

From 27 to 31 March 2013

Bolshoi Ballet Program

*The Rite of Spring* (choreography Wayne McGregor)

*Appartment* (choreography Mats Ek)

From 1 to 7 April 2013

Béjart Ballet Program (Lausanne, Switzerland)

*The Rite of Spring* (choreography Maurice Béjart)

*Syncope* (choreography Gil Roman)

*Cantata 51* (choreography Maurice Béjart)

From 8 to 14 April 2013

Pina Bausch DanceTheatre Program (Wuppertal, Germany)

Première of a thirty-minute documentary film *Pina Bausch rehearses the ballet The Rite of Spring*. The film will be made from recordings of rehearsals, kept in the Pina Bausch Dance-Theatre Archive!

*The Rite of Spring* (choreography Pina Bausch)

From 15 to 21 April 2013

Finnish National Ballet Program

*WorkWithinWork* (choreography William Forsythe)

*Walking Mad* (choreography Johan Inger)

*Minus 7* (choreography Ohad Naharin)

*Bella Figura* (choreography Jiří Kylián)

*Double Evil* (choreography Jorma Elo)

*The Rite of Spring* (choreography Vaslav Nijinsky)

### **Special Projects**

In the upcoming season an original ballet for children based on Kornei Chukovsky's famous tale *Moydodyr* will be staged. The music for the ballet has been written by composer Efrem Podgaitis, while original choreography will be created by the Mariinsky Theatre premier Yuri Smekalov. The ballet will be premièred at the end of December 2012.

In 2012 People's Artist of the USSR Marina Victorovna Kondrateva, a former Bolshoi Theatre Prima Ballerina, and at the present time one of its leading teachers, will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her professional career at the Bolshoi Theatre. This event will be marked by a special jubilee program.

A Gala Evening for People's Artist of Russia, Bolshoi Theatre Prima Ballerina Svetlana Zakharova, will be held on 14 April 2013.

The forthcoming season will also feature a special program marking the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bolshoi Theatre Prima Ballerina Maria Alexandrova's professional career.

The next WWB@LLET.ru Festival is planned for May 2013, to coincide with the Stuttgart Ballet tour.

The 237<sup>th</sup> season will close with a *Semonova-gala* program which, as it were, will sum up the creative activities of the Ballet Company for the season.

### **Bolshoi Theatre Ballet Company Tours**

From 21 May to 10 June 2013 the Bolshoi Ballet Company will tour Australia and New Zealand.

From 29 June to 17 August 2013 the Bolshoi Ballet Company's traditional three-week season at London's Royal Opera House will take place.

### **Live Screenings**

In the upcoming season the Bolshoi Theatre will continue its cooperation with the French recording company Bel Air Media and the PATHE Cinema chain.

Five Bolshoi Theatre ballet performances will be screened live in cinemas in Europe, Brazil, Japan, the USA. There will be simultaneous screenings of these performances for Russian viewers of the Bolshoi Theatre YouTube channel.

30 September 2012

*La Sylphide* (New Stage)



25 November 2012  
*La Fille du Pharaon* (Main Stage)

27 January 2013  
*La Bayadère* (Main Stage)

31 March 2013  
*The Rite of Spring* (New Stage)

12 May 2013  
*Romeo and Juliet* (Main Stage)

Under the auspices of the *Opera Season*, one of the most prestigious projects of the European Broadcasting Union, the opera *The Enchantress* will be broadcast on 6 October 2012 and the *Prince Igor* opera première on 29 December 2012.