



Dear reporters!  
Please, find below the Bolshoi plans  
for its 245<sup>th</sup> season.  
The company is back to work after a long  
forced interruption.

From July 29 to August 2 singers and dancers performed at a specially erected stage in Tauric Chersonese conservation area within the 4<sup>th</sup> International Festival Chersonese. The program included an opera gala and one-act ballet *Carmen Suite*.

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Due to the epidemiological situation, the Bolshoi decided to cancel its traditional  
company meeting this year.

Therefore, in this release we present the main  
events and premieres of the 245<sup>th</sup> season.

You can find the full list with dates, venues and production teams below.

September 6, 8, 10, Historic Stage: the 245<sup>th</sup> season opening, G. Verdi's *Don Carlo*.

Starring Anna Netrebko, Ildar Abdrazakov, Yusif Eyvazov, Agunda Kulaeva, Elchin Azizov.

The first ballet performance will take place in Moscow on September 12. It will be a charity performance of *Don Quixote* (version by Alexei Fadeychev) for medical workers who are selflessly saving people lives.

Regardless many economic and managing challenges in the 245<sup>th</sup> season, the Bolshoi plans to present 3 ballet and 7 opera premieres, hold festivals and philharmonic concerts, go on tours to Europe and South America (Argentina), host the International Ballet Competition by Yuri Grigorovich on its stages.

Everything the Bolshoi has failed to accomplish because of the isolation and infection hazard in the 244<sup>th</sup> season will be put in force in two upcoming years.

Thus in the 245<sup>th</sup> season the premieres of one-act ballets by Russian choreographers to music of Russian composers will take place on December 18, 2020: *Dancemania* by Vyacheslav Samodurov (music by Yuri Krasavin,) *Seasons* by Artemy Belyakov (music by Alexander Glazunov), *Made in Bolshoi* by Anton Pimonov (music by Anatoly Korolyov).

The Chamber Stage will host operas *Les pêcheurs de perles* by G. Bizet, *Anna Frank's Diary* by Grigory Frid, and *The White Rose* by Udo Zimmermann (May 6-8, 2021).

Last season, the performance by the outstanding singer of our time Placido Domingo scheduled to April 2020 was cancelled. We managed to postpone his tour to the 245<sup>th</sup> season: maestro Domingo will conduct *Manon Lescaut* on October 21, and he will perform together with his friends and colleagues in a gala accompanied by the Bolshoi Orchestra on October 24 (Historic Stage).

In the first half of the 245<sup>th</sup> season, the Bolshoi marks the anniversary of the prominent dancer, National Artist of the USSR Vladimir Vasiliev.

November 15-22, the Historic Stage will host three ballets in which he starred (*Don Quixote*, *Spartacus* and *The Nutcracker*). For the latter two, he created the main parts.

The anniversary celebrations will end with the performance by the Tatar Opera Ballet *And the eternal light will shine (Lux Aeterna)* to music by W. A. Mozart, staged by Vladimir Vasiliev.

On November 20, Historic Stage, the birthday of the great ballerina Maya Plisetskaya, the Bolshoi will hold a gala timed to her 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

During the year 2020: In September-December all theatre venues will host the festival timed to Pyotr Tchaikovsky's 180<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary. The program will include such opera and ballets as *Eugene Onegin*, *The Queen of Spades*, *Iolanta*, *Cherevichki*, *The Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty* & *The Nutcracker*.

Beethoven Hall: a concert cycle *Anthology of Romances by Tchaikovsky* will be presented by the Bolshoi Youth Artists Opera Program singers together with maestro Ivori Ilya (Estonia.)

The Bolshoi Orchestra musicians will perform the composer's chamber works.

The concert by Igor Golovatenko and Alla Demidova *Tchaikovsky in Letters and Romances* will make a special event.

Exhibitions from the archive of the theatre museum, dedicated to Plisetskaya, Vasiliev, Bessmertnova, Sorokina, Akimov, Kondratov, Sekh and Ognivtsev, as well as *The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Genius* timed to Sergei Prokofiev's 130<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary, will be held in foyers of the Historic and the New Stages.

The Bolshoi Chief Chorus Master Valery Borisov will celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday this season. For 17 years, Valery Borisov leads the Bolshoi Choir preserving its best traditions and striving continuously for the best creative result.

The Bolshoi Choir certainly belongs to the world's best musical companies. A year ago in London, it has received the prize of the International Opera Awards.

On October 25, a gala with participation of the Bolshoi choir, orchestra and opera soloists will take place timed to Valery Borisov's anniversary.

## The Bolshoi Opera

The Bolshoi considers performing Russian music its top priority. So, we turn to our classics every year. In the 244<sup>th</sup> season opera *Mazeppa* by Tchaikovsky was presented in concert version. In the 245<sup>th</sup> season there will be further progress: the premiere of *Mazeppa* staged by Evgeny Pisarev (sets by Zinovy Margolin, costumes by Olga Shaishmelashvili – the same creative team that had successfully produced *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* by G. Rossini at the Bolshoi two years ago) will take place on June 23-27, Historic Stage. Conductor: Tugan Sokhiev.

Ivan Popovsky will stage a musical comedy *Moscow. Cheremushki* by Dmitry Shostakovich (Bolshoi Chamber Stage). It will be his second production at the Bolshoi where he staged the opera *War and Peace* by Sergei Prokofiev upon the invitation of maestro Mstislav Rostropovich. Set designer and music director of the project are to be announced.

A few years ago, the Bolshoi officially announced three co-productions with Metropolitan Opera. The first of them will be *Salome* by Richard Strauss. The premiere by Claus Guth will take place on February 25, 2021 (Historic Stage). A year after Moscow performances this production will be presented to New York audiences. The production music director: Tugan Sokhiev.

It is impossible to imagine the theatre schedule without the best examples and renowned masterpieces of the world's music. One of the most popular opera titles – *Tosca* by Giacomo Puccini – will return to our repertoire, staged by Italian director and designer Stefano Poda. Conductor: Giacomo Sagripanti. The premiere will be on April 22, 2021, New Stage.

However, we know it is important to present little known operas to our audiences. Thus, during last three seasons within its cooperation with English National opera and Aux-en-Provence Festival, operas *Rodelinde*, *Alcina* and *Dido and Aeneas* were shown. This season will see the premiere of *Ariodantes* by G. F. Handel (July 21, 2021, New Stage) staged by the renowned opera director David Alden (we used to have his *Billy Budd* by Britten, New Stage.) Conductor: Gianluca Capuano.

## The Bolshoi Ballet

Besides its primary task to keep the classical heritage, ballet development tradition is about to create new works continuously. This is why the periods of prominent ballet masters (Alexander Gorsky, Yuri Grigorovich and, later, Alexei Ratmansky) work for the theatre were so important. For many years the Bolshoi does its best to replenish its repertoire with new works. Pierre Lacotte, Roland Petit, Jean-Christophe Maillot, Christopher Wheeldon, Edward Clug staged for the Bolshoi company in the 21st century. The union with Yuri Possokhov has become one of the most successful contacts. *Cinderella*, *The Hero of Our Time*, *Nureyev* were created by the choreographer specially for the Bolshoi. This season Yuri Possokhov will return to stage the ballet *The Seagull*. Stage director Alexander Molochnikov will be his co-author. Saint-Petersburg based composer Ilya Demutsky (the author of the scores of *The Hero of Our Time* and *Nureyev*) is writing the music for the ballet commissioned by the theatre.

The point of the season is that all five ballet premieres are original.

A renowned German choreographer, head of Zurich Ballet, graduate of Cranko's Stuttgart Ballet School Christian Spuck will show the premiere of the ballet *Orlando* on March 2021, New Stage. The production will be based on music by A. Dvořák and M. Richter. Moscow ballet fans have already known the works by Spuck. His production of *Anna Karenina* runs at Stanislavsky Musical Theatre. In addition, Zurich Ballet performed *The Nutcracker* staged by Spuck in Moscow and St-Petersburg two years ago. Now Christian Spuck is well known all over the world. The follower of Forsythe, he always tries to develop his own plastique language, mastering the big form freely at the same time.

Given the world's current situation, the theatre touring plans have changed yet some tours must take place. The Bolshoi Orchestra will go touring over Europe. Traditional orchestra, opera soloists and choir performances in Toulouse and Paris are scheduled to the first decade of March. *The Tzar's Bride* and *Katerina Izmailova* will be presented in concert version in Paris, conducted by Tugan Sokhiev.

The ballet *The Hero of Our Time* will be shown in Israel.

The Bolshoi will visit Argentina for the first time in many years. The performances of the Young Artists Opera Program (YAOP) singers and the ballet *The Swan Lake* will take place at the Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires.

**The Bolshoi plans to open ticket sales on August 15, 2020.**

**See details of our creative life  
at the theatre website  
[www.bolshoi.ru](http://www.bolshoi.ru)**



## The Bolshoi of Russia plans for the 245<sup>th</sup> season (2020-21)

OPERA	BALLET
<b>September 2020</b>	
6, 8, 10, Historic Stage, the season opening <i>Don Carlo</i> by G. Verdi Starring Anna Netrebko, Ildar Abdrazakov, Yusif Eyvazov, Agunda Kulaeva, Elchin Azizov.	12, Historic Stage <i>Don Quixote</i> (A. Fadeychev's version) A charity performance for the healthcare workers
<p>The festival timed to P. Tchaikovsky's 180<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary</p> <p>16-20, Historic Stage: opera <i>The Queen of Spades</i></p> <p>18-20, New Stage: J. Cranko's ballet <i>Onegin</i></p> <p>23, 24, Historic Stage: ballet <i>The Nutcracker</i></p> <p>26, 27, Historic Stage: ballet <i>The Swan Lake</i></p>	
<b>October 2020</b>	
25, Historic Stage: the concert timed to the 70 <sup>th</sup> birthday of People's Artist of the Russian Federation Valery Borisov (choir, orchestra, soloists)	
<p>The festival timed to P. Tchaikovsky's 180<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary</p> <p>2-4, Historic Stage: ballet <i>The Sleeping Beauty</i></p> <p>2-4, New Stage: opera <i>Iolanta</i></p> <p>7-11, Historic Stage: opera <i>Eugene Onegin</i></p> <p>19, New Stage: Tchaikovsky in Letters and Romances</p>	
<b>November 2020</b>	
14, Tchaikovsky Concert Hall: The Bolshoi Orchestra concert The suite from <i>The Nutcracker</i> by P. Tchaikovsky <i>Variations on a Rocooco theme</i> for cello and orchestra by P. Tchaikovsky (soloist: Alexander Ramm) <i>Symphonic Dances</i> by Sergei Rakhmaninov Conductor: Tugan Sokhiev	Historic Stage, <b>Vladimir Vasiliev's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration</b> 15, <i>Don Quixote</i> 17, <i>Spartacus</i> 18, <i>The Nutcracker</i> 22, a jubilee evening: <i>Lux Aeterna</i> performance to music by W. A. Mozart (Tatar Opera and Ballet Theatrel) Historic Stage, 20: <b>Gala in honor of Maya Plisetskaya timed to her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary</b> The program of the evening is to be announced

## December 2020

3-6, Boris Pokrovsky Chamber Stage  
**Premiere of *Les pêcheurs de perles* by G. Bizet**  
 Conductor: Alexei Vereshchagin,  
 director and set designer: Vladislav Nastavshev

8-17, concerts in the framework of the Bolshoi  
 Theatre orchestra tour:

9, Vienna  
 10, Nuremberg  
 11, Munich  
 13, Dortmund  
 14, Amsterdam  
 16, Cologne  
 Conductor: Tugan Sokhiev

12, concert in the framework of the Bolshoi  
 Theatre Choir tour:  
 St-Petersburg Academic Philharmonia  
 Grand Hall  
 Symphony No. 9 by L. van Beethoven  
 Conductor: Nikolai Alexeyev

18, New Stage  
**Three one-act ballets premieres**  
*Dancemania* to music by Y. Krasavin  
 Choreographer: Vyacheslav Samodurov, sets designer:  
 Alexei Kondratiev, costume designer: Anastasia Nefedova

*Seasons*, music by A. Glazunov  
 Choreographer: Artemy Belyakov, set designer: Anna  
 Kostrikova, lighting designer: Anton Stikhin

*Made in Bolshoi*  
 to music by A. Korolyov  
 Choreographer: Anton Pimonov, sets:  
 creative team Bojemoi, costume  
 designer: Tatiana Noginova, lighting  
 designer: Konstantin Binkin

Conductor: Anton Grishanin

The festival timed to Tchaikovsky's 180<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary  
 25-27, 29, 30, Boris Pokrovsky Chamber Stage  
 opera *Cherevichki*

## January 2021

17, Tchaikovsky Concert Hall  
 Concert for piano and orchestra by Ferenc List  
 Soloist: Lucas Debargue  
 Symphony No. 6 by G. Mahler  
 The Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra  
 Conductor: Tugan Sokhiev

## February 2021

7, Historic Stage  
 Anna Netrebko recital

25, Historic Stage  
***Salome* by R. Strauss, premiere of the opera**  
 (co-production with Metropolitan Opera)  
 Conductor: Tugan Sokhiev  
 Stage director: Claus Guth  
 Set Designer: Étienne Pluss  
 Costume designer Ursula Kudrna  
 Lighting designer: Olaf Freese  
 Choreographer: Sommer Ulrickson  
 Dramatist: Yvonne Gebauer

## March 2021

10-14, Bolshoi Opera, Orchestra and Choir tour, France  
 10, Toulouse: *The Tzar's Bride* (opera concert performance)  
 11, Toulouse: Symphony No. 2,  
*Three Russian Songs* by S. Rakhmaninov  
*Polovtsian Dances* by A. Borodin  
 13, Paris: *The Tzar's Bride* (concert performance)  
 14, Paris: *Katerina Izmailova*  
 by D. Shostakovich (opera concert performance)  
 Conductor: Tugan Sokhiev

18, Boris Pokrovsky Chamber Stage  
***Moscow. Cheremushki* by D. Shostakovich,**  
**premiere of the musical comedy**  
 Conductor: to be  
 announced  
 Stage Director: Ivan Popovsky

24, New Stage  
***Orlando* to music by A. Dvořák and M. Richter,**  
**premiere of the ballet**  
 Choreographer: Christian Spuck  
 Set Designer: Rufus Didwizsus  
 Costume Designer: Emma Ryott  
 Lighting Designer: Martin Gebhardt

March – April, the Bolshoi Ballet tour, Israeli  
 March 31, April 1  
*The Hero of Our Time* by I. Demutsky  
 (choreographer: Y. Possokhov,  
 stage director: K. Serebrennikov)

April 2021

22, New Stage  
*Tosca* by G. Puccini,  
 premiere of the opera  
 Conductor: Giacomo Sagripanti  
 Stage Director, Set and Lighting designer:  
 Stefano Poda

May 2021

6-8, Boris Pokrovsky Chamber Stage  
 premiere of one-act operas  
*Anna Frank's Diary* (music by G. Frid)  
*The White Rose* (music by U. Zimmermann)  
 Conductor: Philipp Chizhevsky  
 Stage Director: Hans-Joachim Frey  
 Set Designer: Pyotr Okunev  
 Lighting Designer: Aivar Salikhov

June 2021

May 31- June 7, the YAOP artists and Bolshoi ballet tour, Buenos Aires  
 Teatro de Colón, *Swan Lake*, the concert of the YOP soloists

23-27, Historic Stage  
*Mazeppa* by P. Tchaikovsky,  
 premiere of the opera  
 Conductor: Tugan Sokhiev  
 Stage Director: Evgeny Pisarev  
 Set Designer: Zinovy Margolin  
 Costume Designer: Olga Shaishmelashvili

July 2021

21, New Stage  
*Ariodante* by G. F. Handel,  
 premiere of the opera  
 Director: David Alden  
 Conductor: Gianluca Capuano  
 Set & Costume Designer: Ian McNeill  
 Choreographer: Michael Keegan-Dolan  
 Lighting Designer: Wolfgang Göbbel

1-4, the New Stage -  
 The premiere of the ballet *The Seagull*  
 by Ilya Demutsky  
 Choreographer - Yuri Possokhov  
 Director - Alexander Molochnikov  
 Conductor - Anton Grishanin  
 Set Designer - Tom Pye  
 Costume Designer - Emma Ryott  
 Lighting Designer – David Finn

5-15 - Grigorovich International Ballet  
 Competition  
 5, Historic Stage - opening  
 5-12, New Stage - tours  
 13-14, Historic Stage - the 3<sup>rd</sup> tour  
 15, Historic Stage - the competition closing  
 and the winners gala



## Exhibitions

Historic Stage (Museum foyer, Chorus foyer)	New Stage
<b>September – October 2020</b>	
Vladimir Vasiliev (to the 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)	From <i>The Bolshoi Stars</i> cycle Alexander Ognitsev (to the centennial)
<b>November 2020</b>	
Vladimir Vasiliev (to the 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)  <b>Imperial Foyer</b> Maya Plisetskaya (to the 95 <sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)	From <i>The Bolshoi Stars</i> cycle Yaroslav Sekh (to the 90 <sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)
<b>December 2020</b>	
Vladimir Vasiliev (to the 80 <sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)	From <i>The Bolshoi Stars</i> cycle Yaroslav Sekh (to the 90 <sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)
<b>January 2021</b>	
The 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Genius (to Sergei Prokofiev's 130 <sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)	From <i>The Bolshoi Stars</i> cycle Yuri Kondratov (to the centennial)
<b>February 2021</b>	
The 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Genius (to Sergei Prokofiev's 130 <sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)	From <i>The Bolshoi Stars</i> cycle Yuri Kondratov (to the centennial)
<b>March 2021</b>	
The 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Genius (to Sergei Prokofiev's 130 <sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)	From <i>The Bolshoi Stars</i> cycle Tamara Sorokina (to the 90 <sup>th</sup> birthday)
<b>April 2021</b>	
The 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Genius (to Sergei Prokofiev's 130 <sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)	From <i>The Bolshoi Stars</i> cycle Tamara Sorokina (to the 90 <sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)



May – June 2021

Boris Akimov (to the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)

From *The Bolshoi Stars* cycle  
Natalia Bessmertnova  
(to the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary)

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