



PROGRAMMES

OPERA FESTIVAL

BARTOK **PLUS**
14 to 23 June
2019
MISKOLC
HUNGARY



OPENING ADDRESS

The management of Bartók Plus Opera Festival was awarded with Pro Urbe prize by the city of Miskolc this year. We sincerely thank the audience of Miskolc for it and we will take pride mentioning it to our guests.

The international specialized press pays particular attention to the festival's professional programs, our aspirations to create contemporary popular opera.

The saying goes "No one can be a prophet in their own land." I do not agree. Moreover, I think, that most of us are born into places because that is where we have a job in the first place. No doubt, however, that this job is the hardest to carry out.

The reason why this prize is extremely important is that it reflects understanding of an international success in this country, and that inspires us all to re-think why we originally started the festival in 2001. We wanted to help Miskolc prosper and flourish. To have the city's small and old celebrate together during these ten days. Not just opera lovers, but everyone. We have a lot more to do in this respect. In the name of our Pro Urbe prized management, I kindly ask the ones who care about our city's future to join in, and – in addition to the professional achievements – bring back the community's initial zest: 'Music makes a town'

Gergely Kesselyák
festival director

FRIDAY, 14TH JUNE

BARTÓK PLUSZ 2019 – OPENING GALA PERFORMANCE

8pm • Miskolc National Theatre, Main Stage

Programme: Works by Aldo **FINZI**, Erich Wolfgang **KORNGOLD**, Dmitri **SHOSTAKOVICH**, Giacomo **PUCCINI**, Albin **FRIES**

Soloists: **Ágnes Molnár**, **Brigitta Kele**, **Csilla Boross**, **Szabolcs Brickner**, **Erik Fenton**

Conducted by: **Gergely Kesselyák**

Contributing: **Orchestra and Choir of the Hungarian State Opera House**

The opening concert of Bartók Plusz 2019 offers an audacious, unconventional selection of works by romantic, twentieth-century and contemporary composers. The first composer, Aldo Finzi had a tragic fate and died at a young age. His opera, *La serenata al vento* (Serenade to the Wind) won the opera competition of La Scala in Milan but the introduction of laws discriminating Jews prevented the production of the opera. Korngold was the father of film music composition who wrote six wonderful operas in addition to his film music. The festival now offers a sampling of his melodrama "Das Wunder der Heliane" (The Miracle of Heliane). Shostakovich, this uniquely profound composer with the most tragic voice figures in the programme with the orchestral suite made out of his operetta *Moscow, Cheryomushki*. Austrian composer Albin Fries won the Opera Composition Competition by Bartók Plus in 2018. The opening gala will present a wonderful aria from his work before the opera's world premiere during the festival.

Tickets: 4800 / 3400 / 2000 HUF



FRENCH OPERA GALA

6.30pm • Szent István Square

Soloists: **Erika Eperjesi**,
Antonia Dunjko, **Yanis Benabdallah**, **Chen Yibao**
Conducted by: **Philippe de Chalendar** Contributing:
Orchestra of the Miskolc National Theatre

Free performance

SATURDAY, 15TH JUNE

„... AND ECHO“

**Puppet opera in one act
adapted from “Kereszt”
(Cross) by Fruzsina B. Török**
7pm • Chamber Theatre

Libretto: Viktória Vizin, Krisztián Gergye Music composed by: Péter Zombola Director, Choreographer: Krisztián Gergye Puppet Designer: Károly Hoffer and the workshop at the Budapest Puppet Theatre Costume Design: Gergely Z. Zöldy and Ildikó Debreczeni with sponsorship by Jelmez-Art Kft. • Artistic director: Csilla Bíró • Cast: Viktória Vizin – mezzo soprano, Krisztián Gergye – dance, Adél – a life-size puppet • Contributing: Accord Quartet and Péter Zombola

The personal drama of a female opera singer, the play is also, an inverted Bluebeard story about Judith alone, without a man, entrapped in the castle.

Tickets: 2000 HUF

COLLEGIUM MUSICUM CONCERT

organised by Filharmónia
Magyarország

4pm • Gothic Calvinist
Church on Avas Hill

Contributing: Máté Zsolt Mészáros – organ (winner of the Fischer Annie Scholarship from 2016 to 2018), Cecília Széll – soprano, Hungarian National Choir • Conducted by: Zoltán Kocsis-Holper

Tickets: 2000 HUF



GIACOMO PUCCINI: LA BOHÈME

**Opera in four acts, in Italian presented in three
parts with projected animation**

9pm • Miskolc National Theatre, Summer Stage

Cast: Rodolfo – István Horváth, Mimi – Kinga Kriszta, Marcello – Zsolt Haja, Musetta – Rita Rácz, Colline – András Kiss, Benoît, Alcindoro – András Hábetler • Directed by: András Hábetler • Conducted by: Gergely Madaras • Contributing: Savaria Symphony Orchestra, Choir of the Győr National Theatre, Children's Choir of the Hungarian State Opera

One of the protagonists of the opera, Marcello, the painter documents the story in his paintings. This way the audience watches a 90-minute animation, which was created using more than one hundred paintings. The animated paintings follow through almost all of the opera; sometimes illustrating the plot or providing background to stage events but sometimes the story itself is set on the screen.

This intimately sentimental and suggestive production is “digestible” even for those, for whom this will be the first encounter with the opera genre.


Tickets: 4000 HUF

SUNDAY, 16TH JUNE



© Marco Borggreve

PÉTER EÖTVÖS is one of the best known contemporary opera composers. As a conductor, he is considered one of the finest interpreters of modern music. Music, hence opera constitutes for him a complex artistic experience, a ritual, and he wants to make the audience an initiated participant in the act.

 **ernst von siemens
music foundation**

PÉTER EÖTVÖS: DER GOLDENE DRACHE (The Golden Dragon)

Opera in one act, in English – Première in Hungary

7pm • Miskolc National Theatre, Main Stage

Libretto: **Péter Eötvös**, based on Roland Schimmelpfennig's play with the same title • Soloists: **Andrew Mackenzie-Wicks, Einat Aronstein, Andrea Meláth, Kornél Mikecz, Daniel Norman** • Directed by: **Bruno Berger-Gorski** • Contributing: **Israel Contemporary Players** • Artistic Director: **Dan Yuhas** • Conducted by: **Zsolt Nagy**

Der goldene Drache tells the tragic story of a Chinese little boy who arrives at a town in Germany looking for his elder sister. He cannot find her and he ends up in an Asian eatery. He suffers from a terrible toothache but does not have social security so the four cooks try to help him. They pull out his tooth with pliers but they cannot stop his bleeding and he dies. His body is rolled up in a carpet and thrown into a nearby stream. Thus, in a surreal way, the boy in his death can return to his native China after countless vicissitudes.

The World Première was held in Frankfurt am Main on 29th June, 2014.

Tickets: 4800 / 3400 / 2000 HUF



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Budapest

Mifal Hapais

was produced with the support
of the Israel Lottery Council For Culture & Arts

KONSTANTIA GOURZI: PAHARIÓN

4pm • Inner City Lutheran Church

Performed by: **Vassilis Agrokostas** – psalm singer, lyra, **Harris Lambrakis** – ney, **Miltiades Papastamou** – violin, **Slava Cernavca** – clarinet/bass clarinet, **Saint Ephraim Male Choir** (artistic director: **Tamás Bubnó**) • Conducted by: **Konstantia Gourzi**

"Paharión, the Red Angel in the Garden of las Huelgas is the combination of sounds from the Eastern and Western liturgical traditions and 21st-century contemporary music played on traditional and modern instruments. The piece combines fifteen sound dialogues between different cultures: the Gregorian and Byzantine voices meet Western instruments like violin and clarinet as well as traditional ones from Eastern countries like the lyre and ney." (Konstantia Gourzi)

Tickets: 2000 HUF

MONDAY, 17TH JUNE

PETER SÁRIK TRIO

BARTÓK

PÉTER SÁRIK TRIO: X BARTÓK

Jazz & Bartók – for lovers of classical and jazz music

8pm • House of the Arts (Művészetek Háza)

Péter Sárík – piano • Tibor Fonay – double bass
Attila Gálfi – drums

Péter Sárík Trio is one of the most popular and most significant performers in contemporary Hungarian jazz. In addition to their own compositions they are not afraid of bold adventures into other musical genres, including classical transcriptions.

"Besides Bartók, I cannot think of another composer who had such an immense impact on contemporary jazz. This is why jazz and Bartók are a perfect match: his piano pieces sound even more characteristic adapted to a trio while orchestral pieces and folk song adaptations also show new facets and open enormous ground to improvisation."

Tickets: 2000 HUF

ASAN CIVIC CHOIR

6pm • Inner City Calvinist Church

The programme of the South Korean choir includes works by Hungarian composers and Korean and Hungarian folk song adaptations.

Choir leader: Soonjung Kim

Tickets: 1500 HUF



TUESDAY, 18TH JUNE

BŐ SZEKUND

(Augmented second)

Another musical stand-up by **Ádám Bősze**

8pm • Miskolc National Theatre, Chamber Theatre

After the success of the stand-up performance *#szeretnekahallgatók* (*#Iamlovedbythelisteners*) here comes the second with the title *Bő szekund* (Augmented second).

The content is all new but the format has not changed a bit: you can get ready for an hour-long uninterrupted entertainment.

The programme is evaluated as follows by the otherwise severe critic of the Revizor portal: *"...we are not bored at all for one and a half hours, which is already a great thing, since an American stand-up special is rarely longer than 50 to 60 minutes, and it is good because the audience of classical music concerts has a place to take a break. Yes, we must not deny it, Ádám Bősze is the relief valve of the classical music scene, the protagonist of an event where you can finally laugh your head off, giggle, fumble and open candy wrapping, cough, and laugh coughing or cough laughing and so on, and nobody is going to tell you off. And finally, you can laugh at the silly and simplistic plot of operas, the stupid names of opera characters, and that there is comedy and misunderstanding even in this 'wild world' of evening dresses and tail coats..."*

Ádám Bősze's performance is radically different from stand-up comedy as we know it. His puns are generally related to classical music or cultural history in a broader sense but we come across absurd humour as well.

Tickets: 3000 HUF



CONCERT BY THE WOMEN'S CHOIR OF THE BÉLA BARTÓK MUSIC INSTITUTE

6pm • Music Palace

Contributing: **András Bujtás** – organ, **Éva Elvira Horváth** – piano, **Martina Lénárt** – solo soprano, **Zsanett Zombori** – solo soprano • Conducted by: **Zoltán Sándor**

Choral works by contemporary composers – György Orbán, Levente Gyöngyösi, Miklós Kocsár, Ériks Ešenvalds, Pablo Casals – and classics – Gioachino Rossini, Josef Gabriel Rheinberger, Francis Poulenc, Gabriel Fauré.

Ticket: 1500 HUF

WEDNESDAY, 19TH JUNE



9pm • Miskolc National Theatre, Summer Stage

ALEKSANDR SCRIABIN: PROMETHEUS: THE POEM OF FIRE Concert with Light Show

Lighting Design: **Tamás Bányai** • Visual Design: **Edit Zeke** • Contributing: **Dávid Báll** – piano, **Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra** • Conducted by: **Zsolt Hamar**

Scriabin assigned colour shades to the notes of his last orchestral work. The intense experience of this piece is made complete with the use of a colour organ prescribed by the composer and light art.

BÉLA BARTÓK: DUKE BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE Opera in one act, in Hungarian, with English surtitles

Libretto: **Béla Balázs** • Duke Bluebeard: **András Pallerdi**, Judith: **Andrea Rost** • Contributing: **Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra** • Directed and Conducted by: **Zsolt Hamar**

Zoltán Kocsis (1952-2016) conductor and pianist's contribution has made the Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra one of the most significant interpreters of Bartók's oeuvre. In this festival performance of Bluebeard's Castle Zsolt Hamar, holder of the Liszt Award, heading the orchestra since 2017 undertakes the creative tasks of stage direction in addition to that of the conductor with the support of outstanding artists. He said: "I truly believe that opera is not a libretto with musical accompaniment but a theatre play of its own right written by the composer, in the language of music using means of expression inherent to music."

Tickets: 4000 HUF

„...an encounter
of operatic and
symphonic poetry...

OPERA FOR THOUSANDS
PIETRO MASCAGNI:
CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA
(Rustic Chivalry)
Initiation performance

6pm • Szent István Square

Storyteller: **András Hábetler**

• With contribution by:
Soloists of the performance,
Orchestra and Choir of the
Miskolc National Theatre,
Asan Civic Choir • Conduct-
ed by: **Balázs Kocsár**

The full opera will be performed at
9.15pm on 21th June at the Miskolc
Calvary. (Rain date: 22nd June)

Free performance

WEDNESDAY, 19TH JUNE

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PHOTOGRAPHY



MUSICIENS LIBRES: LA SÉANCE

7pm • Gallery of Miskolc

Performers: **Máté Bán** – flute, **Péter Szűcs** – clarinet, **Bálint Mohai** – bassoon, **Klára Bábel** – harp, **Miklós Környei**, artistic director – guitar, **Tamás Pregun** – piano • Guests: **Eszter Zemlényi** – soprano, **Kamila Słodkowska** – cello

Programme: Béla **BARTÓK**: 15 Hungarian Peasant Songs, Csanád **KEDVES**: Ponthalmazok a távoli közelségben (Point Sets in the Distant Proximity), Zoltán **KODÁLY**: Epigrams – excerpts, Árpád **SOLTI**: Trois chansons, Zoltán **KODÁLY**: Epigrams – excerpts, Béla **BARTÓK**: Romanian Folk Dances, Tamás **PRE-GUN**: Preludes Libres

"According to the credo of Musiciens Libres there are no walls between different genres. Classi-

cal, contemporary, jazz or folk music – all represent everlasting value. The repertoire of this group is

focused on arrangements, which are created in the most varied ways starting from duos and trios, ending with larger number of musicians and surprising combination of instruments. Naturally, these arrangements are made by the musicians themselves."

Szabolcs Molnár
music historian

Free performance

nka

This concert was realised with support from NKA, the National Cultural Fund of Hungary

THURSDAY, JUNE 20TH

Winner of the Opera Composition Competition 2018
by Bartók Plus

ALBIN FRIES: NORA

Opera in three acts, in German

7pm • Miskolc National Theatre, Main Stage



In the main roles:
Sonnenfels – **Pedro Velázquez Díaz**, Arthur – **Valentina Pluzhnikova**, Nora, Desirée – **Sylvia Olszyńska**, Andre – **Morten Frank Larsen**, Clara – **Katalin Vámosi** •
Set and Costume Design: **Gergely Z. Zöldy** •
Contributing: **Hungarian Symphony Orchestra, Miskolc** • Conducted by: **Ádám Cser** • Directed by: **Ferenc Anger**

Austrian composer Albin Fries' opera, Nora won the international Opera Composition Competition by Bartók Plus Opera Festival in 2018. The entire work will be first presented to the audience here, at the Miskolc Festival.

"My plan was to write a counterpart to the intellectual operas of today,

an opera about love once again. I purposely chose a sentimental libretto. Since my musical style is late Romantic tonal, the story is also set between 1890 and 1910. What is the message of the opera? Perhaps that the protagonist Arthur can only understand the pure quality of love by loving his child." (Albin Fries)

Tickets: 4400 / 3400 / 2400 HUF



FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST



OPERA FOR THOUSANDS

„Let opera belong to everyone!”

PIETRO MASCAGNI: CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA

(Rustic Chivalry)

Opera in one act, in Italian

9.15pm • Calvary Hillside

Cast: Turiddu – **Hector Lopez Mendoza**, Santuzza – **Gabriella Balga**, Lucia – **Veronika Dobi-Kiss**, Alfio – **Zsolt Haja**, Lola – **Eszter Balogh** • Visual Design: **Edit Zeke** • Contributing: **Orchestra and Choir of the Miskolc National Theatre, Asan Civic Choir, Festival Choir** • Conducted by: **Balázs Kocsár** • Directed by: **Paolo Panizza**

“Opera for Thousands” presenting immortal masterpieces of world operatic literature will feature Pietro Mascagni’s *Cavalleria rusticana* this year. Remaining true to the traditions of the festival the performance is set among the natural scenery of buildings and public spaces in the city. The spectacular open-air opera performance will testify again to the capacity of music to create its audience.

Initiation performance: 6pm, 19th June Open-air Stage
Szent István Square

Free performance

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“Opera does not require preliminary studies to reach our heart. Music is capable of touching anyone sitting on the ground or at the kerb.”

(Gergely Kesselyák)

FRIDAY, JUNE 21ST

IGUDESMAN & JOO: "A LITTLE NIGHTMARE MUSIC"

6pm • Miskolc National Theatre, Summer Stage

Just when you thought it was safe...

The concert begins. The music is sublime. Not even a pin would dare drop. Suddenly, a cellphone rings and the madness starts. The pianist loses his hand, the violinist, while tuning, falls asleep, and later wakes up in the middle of a motorway, transformed into a "Riverdancer". When the pianist returns, the piano is locked, telling him to insert his credit card. He just talks on the phone while reading a paper, eating, and, playing the piano upside down all at the same time. These and many other "nightmares" unfold before audiences' eyes and ears.

IGUDESMAN & JOO have received acclaim for their interpretation of a concert night from audiences all over the world. The show has reached thousands in concert halls ranging from LA Bowl and Carnegie Hall in the West, Concertgebouw Amsterdam and Philharmonie Berlin, to Hong Kong City Hall Theatre in the East. "A Little Nightmare Music" is a unique show, full of virtuosity, enchanting music and zany, outrageous humour. Ideal for audiences aged 8 to 88, this show is sure to captivate you and crack you up whether you're a classical music enthusiast or the type who runs for

cover, at the mere mention of Mozart.

"Aleksey Igudesman and Hyung-ki Joo played at my 80th birthday celebrations. I nearly died laughing. I'd like to invite them back for my 85th, but that might be considered reckless..... Great musicians, great fun."

(Bernard Haitink
conductor)

Tickets: 4000 HUF

"Aleksey Igudesman plays with a bow made by the Boston-based bowmaker, Benoit Roland, and on a Santo Seraphin violin from the year 1717, which is kindly loaned to him by ERSTE BANK. Aleksey Igudesman plays on handmade strings by Thomastik Infeld. Hyung-ki Joo is a Steinway Artist. Aleksey Igudesman and Hyung-ki Joo wear clothing by CLEOFÉ FINATI – Haute Couture 100% made in Italy."

SATURDAY, 22ND JUNE

PIETRO MASCAGNI: IRIS

Opera in two parts, three acts, in Italian

7pm • Miskolc National Theatre, Main Stage

Libretto: Luigi Illica • Guest performance of the Josef Kajetán Tyl Theatre (Plzeň, Czech) • Set Design: Petr Víték • Costume Design: Ivana Ševčík Miklošková • Conductor: Jiří Štrunc • Directed by: Tomáš Pilař

Pietro Mascagni is known to opera lovers mainly for his opera *Cavalleria Rusticana*. But he wrote fifteen operas and *Iris* is a real gem among them. Opera *Iris* takes us to ancient Japan and tells a story balancing between reality and myth. A poor girl called Iris falls in love with a wooden puppet for which she leaves the safety of her home. A rich nobleman Osaka kidnaps her and sells her to a brothel; Iris kills herself in despair and her soul wanders through darkness and turns into sunshine at the end of the opera. The work offers an unusually dramatic plot, stunning music and poses a number of serious questions regarding the fundamental essence of life and death. The composer's seventh opera premiered on 22 November 1898 in Rome, six years before Puccini's famous opera *Madama*

Butterfly.

Iris was first performed in Pilsen on 13th April this year. This will be their first guest performance in Miskolc.

The JK Tyl Theatre has four artistic companies that produce about 600 shows per year, offering drama, opera, operetta, musical and ballet. Titles from the repertory of leading world theatre stages are mixed with original new productions as well as Czech premieres of plays by foreign



authors. The J.K. Tyl Theatre is also registered on the cultural map of Europe as the site of the International Festival THE-ATRE with its first season dating back to 1993.

Tickets:

4800 / 3400 / 2000 HUF

Tobacco products are used in the production.



SUNDAY, 23RD JUNE

3 TENORS – CONCLUDING GALA PERFORMANCE

7pm • Miskolc National Theatre, Main Stage

Programme: Works by **VERDI, PUCCINI, GUNOD, TCHAIKOVSKI, STRAUSS, DERACO** and other popular composers

Soloists: **Galeano Salas, István Horváth, Mihail Mihaylov** • Contributing: **Hungarian Symphony Orchestra, Miskolc** • Conducted by: **Mátyás Antal**

GALEANO SALAS

Praised for his romantic Italianate sound, he has most recently won the Grand Prix and Audience Choice Awards at the third Éva Marton International Singing Competition. His recent stage appearances include Gastone in *La traviata* and Roderigo in a production of *Otello* alongside Jonas Kaufmann, at the Bayerische Staatsoper where he also appeared in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Turandot*. His oratorio

repertoire ranges from Haydn through Handel to Beethoven and Mozart.



ISTVÁN HORVÁTH

Graduating from the Arts Faculty at Pécs he started his career at the Pécs National Theatre later making his opera debut as Count Almaviva in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* in Miskolc. He has sung numerous bel canto tenor roles since then and has appeared regularly with the National Philharmonic Orchestra. With them, he

sang for Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Ferenc Liszt's birth. He has been solo singer with the Hungarian State Opera since 2010.



MIHAIL MIHAYLOV

A graduate of the National Music Academy of Sofia he debuted singing the part of Count Almaviva in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. He has appeared in many bel canto tenor roles in Bulgarian and Macedonian opera houses. He also performed in oratorio works by Mozart, Saint-Saëns, Schubert with the Sofia Philharmonics and other important orchestras across Europe. In 2015 he won the Grand prix at the International Song Competition "Romansiada" (Moscow, Russia).

Tickets:

4800 / 3400 / 2000 HUF



JUAN DIEGO FLÓREZ

PAPP LÁSZLÓ SPORTARENA

22ND OCTOBER, 2019

7.30pm

Contributing:
Danubia Orchestra
Óbuda

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BARTÓK PLUS OPERA FESTIVAL

is organised by: **Miskolci Operafesztivál Nonprofit Kft.**

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The Box Office of the Miskolc National Theatre

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E-mail: jegyiroda@mnsz.hu

Opening Hours: Mo to Fri 10 to 18hrs, Sat 10 to 13hrs
and for one hour before the start of the performances.

Tickets are available on the national „JEGYPONT” network of **InterTicket**
and on the **JEGY•HU** web page.

Further information:

www.operafesztival.hu

Follow us on the Facebook page: Bartók Plusz Operafesztivál

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