

NEW YORK TOUR

2018
IO. 30. – II. 11.

HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA
and HUNGARIAN NATIONAL BALLET
to make U.S. debuts at

DAVID H. KOCH THEATER
October 30 – November 11, 2018

www.opera.hu | www.facebook.com/Operahaz

HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA

Three hundred and fifty singers, dancers and musicians from the Hungarian State Opera will take over the David H. Koch Theater for two weeks when the Hungarian State Opera and Hungarian National Ballet make their U.S. debuts, October 30 – November 11, in programs featuring a series of U.S. premieres and new productions.

The Hungarian State Opera was founded in 1884 by the Government of the Kingdom of Hungary, and its first directors were Ferenc Erkel, a Hungarian conductor, composer, and key figure in Hungarian opera culture, and Frigyes Campilli, a dancer, choreographer and ballet master of Italian-German origin, who founded the first ballet troupe in Hungary. With two theaters – the opulent neo-Renaissance-style Opera House and the more modern Erkel Theatre – the company can accommodate an audience of more than 3,200 people on a single night. Repertoire includes well- and lesser-known Hungarian and international operas and ballets, as well as contemporary and commissioned works. Each year, the company presents more than 200 performances of 60-70 operas, more than 100 ballet performances, as well as musicals, and orchestra concerts, making it one of the busiest opera houses in the world.

The Hungarian State Opera has a remarkable tour history. The company has been seen around the world for a century, with performances being staged in numerous European capitals and in countries from Egypt to Japan, making these first performances in the U.S. particularly significant.

Ferenc Erkel

Bánk Bán

The Viceroy Bánk

opera in two parts – U.S. premiere

TUESDAY **October 30** at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY **November 3** at 8:00 p.m.

Photo by Attila Nagy

Conductor ▶ **Balázs Kocsár**
Director ▶ **Attila Vidnyánszky**
Set designer ▶ **Olekszandr Bilozub**
Costume designer ▶ **Viktória Nagy**
Choreographer ▶ **Árpád Kőnczei**

Cast ▶ **Marcell Bakonyi, Judit Németh, István Horváth, Levente Molnár, Zita Szemere, István Rácz, Zsolt Haja, Antal Cseh, Gergely Irlanda**

Bánk Bán (*The Viceroy Bánk*) is the most important piece both in Hungarian drama literature and opera history. A story about the oppression of the tormented Hungarian people is told by Ferenc Erkel's moving, passionate music. A Hungarian lord's professional and private lives are both influenced by the uncontrolled reign of foreigners. He must take action. But is one man enough to bring justice to people, and will the tragedy of an innocent family change the fate of Hungarians?

Karl Goldmark

The Queen of Sheba

Die Königin von Saba
opera in two parts

WEDNESDAY **October 31** at 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY **November 2** at 7:30 p.m.

Conductor ▶ **János Kovács**
Director ▶ **Csaba Káel**
Set designer ▶ **Éva Szendrényi**
Costume designer ▶ **Anikó Németh**
Choreographer ▶ **Marianna Venekei**

Cast ▶ **Zoltán Kelemen, Péter Fried, Eszter Sümegei, Boldizsár László, Lajos Geiger, Erika Gál, Eszter Zavaros, Ferenc Cserhalmi**

According to the ancient scriptures, the Queen of Sheba was obsessed with finding Wisdom, and so she journeyed to meet Solomon, who was known to be the wisest of all the rulers of the time, in order to put his knowledge to the test. Goldmark, who was born in Hungary to a religious Jewish family and forever remained true to his native country's culture even after moving to Vienna, was inspired by the beauty of one of his students to write this feverish and biblically-themed tale of a love triangle between the temperamental queen, a young Jerusalem diplomat and the daughter of the high priest.

Photo by Attila Nagy

János Vajda

Mario and the Magician

opera in one act – U.S. premiere

Béla Bartók

Bluebeard's Castle

opera in one act

THURSDAY **NOVEMBER 1** at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY **NOVEMBER 3** at 1:00 p.m.



Photo by Zsófia Pályi

Conductor ▶ **Balázs Kocsár**

Director, set designer ▶ **Péter Galambos**

Costume designer ▶ **Enikő Kárpáti**

Choreographer ▶ **Csaba Solti**

Cast ▶ Mario and the Magician: **András Palerdi, Balázs Csémy, Orsolya Hajnalka Róser, Antal Cseh, Márió Matyó, Lajos Geiger**

Bluebeard's Castle: **András Palerdi, Ildikó Komlósi**

How far do we let other people into our minds, our soul, and our past? And what happens if someone pushes their way into our consciousness even though we haven't let them in? Béla Bartók and Béla Balázs's world-famous opera offers insight into the various layers and stages of the relationship between men and women, while János Vajda's work based on the famous novella by Thomas Mann depicts the effects of blind extremism and mass hypnosis. Two brilliant 20th century one-act operas in one evening: both Hungarian, and both about the deepest functioning of the human mind and how the psyche can be influenced.



Photo by Zsófia Pályi

HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA *and* HUNGARIAN NATIONAL BALLET GALA

SUNDAY November 4 at 7:00 p.m.

<u>Ferenc Erkel</u>	National Anthem
<u>Franz Liszt</u>	Les Préludes
<u>Ferenc Erkel</u>	Hunyadi László – <i>La Grange's aria</i>
<u>Ferenc Erkel</u>	Hunyadi László – <i>Act I Finale</i>
<u>Ferenc Erkel:</u>	Bánk Bán – <i>Bánk's aria</i>
<u>Ferenc Erkel:</u>	Bánk Bán – <i>Petur's aria</i>
<u>Marius Petipa / Anna-Marie Holmes</u>	
<u>Adolphe Adam</u>	Le Corsaire – <i>pas de deux</i>
<u>Franz Liszt</u>	Piano Concerto No. 1 in E-flat major

(interval)

<u>András Lukács / Philip Glass</u>	Whirling
<u>Leó Weiner</u>	Fox Dance
<u>Béla Bartók</u>	Evening in Transylvania
<u>Ernő Dohnányi</u>	Symphonic Minutes – <i>Capriccio and Rondo</i>
<u>Hans van Manen / Erik Satie</u>	Trois Gnossiennes
<u>Zoltán Kodály</u>	Háry János – <i>Őrzsé's song</i>
<u>Zoltán Kodály</u>	Háry János – <i>Intermezzo</i>
<u>Zoltán Kodály</u>	The Spinning Room – <i>Under the Mountains of Csítár</i>
<u>Zoltán Kodály</u>	The Spinning Room – <i>Finale</i>

Featuring ► **Erika Gál, István Horváth, Zoltán Kelemen, Boldizsár László, Orsolya Hajnalka Róser, Zita Szemere, the Hungarian State Opera Orchestra, Gergely Bogányi (piano), and the artists of the Hungarian National Ballet**

Conductor ► **Gergely Kesselyák**

B C E HUNGARIAN NATIONAL BALLET

The second pillar of the Opera is the Hungarian National Ballet, the only classical ballet company in Hungary. With about 100 performances throughout the season, dance fans have a wide range of selection to choose from. The rich repertoire includes classic choreographies like *Don Quixote* and *Swan Lake*.

The company received the rights to perform three extremely demanding pieces only recently. John Crako's *Oregon*, Ronald Hynd's *The Merry Widow* and Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Manon* are sure to remain popular with the audiences for years to come. All-time Tchaikovsky favorite *The Nutcracker* got a facelift by Wayne Eagling and ballet director Tamás Solymosi in 2015. A ballet based on a well-known tale by the brothers Grimm is probably the most popular piece among the youngest audience: the story of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* keeps children glued to the seats.

Those who prefer more modern pieces can also see the stars of the National Ballet excel in them. These modern (usually one-act) ballets are chosen carefully and presented on one night. Harald Lander's *Etudes*, the all-male ballet parody entitled *Troy Game* by Robert North, several choreographies by Jiří Kylián are frequently featured in the program. Three one-act pieces by Hans van Manen entered the repertoire in 2017: the triple bill entitled *LOL* comprises *Trois Gnossiennes*, *5 Tangos* and *Black Cake*.

Rudi van Dantzig
Toer van Schayk
Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Photo by Attila Nagy

Swan Lake

ballet in three acts
– U.S. production premiere

TUESDAY 6 November at 7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 7 November at 7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY 8 November at 7:00 p.m.

Conductor ▶ **János Kovács**
Choreography after Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov ▶ **Rudi van Dantzig**
Choreography of folk dances, set and costume designer ▶ **Toer van Schayk**
Assistant set and costume designer ▶ **Ruud Lutgens**
Lighting designer ▶ **Jan Hofstra**

Cast ▶ **Tatiana Melnik, Gergely Leblanc, Mikalai Radziush, Dmitry Diachkov, Kim Minjung, Gergő Ármin Balázs, Iurii Kekalo, András József Rónai, Dmitry Timofeev**

Tchaikovsky's first ballet is the most beloved classical piece in ballet literature: while the hardships of love between a prince forced into marriage and a maiden enchanted into the form of a swan is one of the most charming Russian romantic fairy tales, the piece nevertheless failed at its original premiere in 1877. The same female ballet dancer portrays both Odette – the pure, innocent white swan – and Odile – the seductive, manipulative black swan in the Hungarian National Ballet's production.

Marius Petipa / Alexander Gorsky / Kasyan Goleizovsky
Michael Messerer / Ludwig Minkus

Don Quixote

ballet in three acts
– U.S. production premiere

FRIDAY 9 November at 8:00 p.m.
SATURDAY 10 November at 8:00 p.m.

Photo by Péter Rákossy

Conductor ▶ **János Kovács**
Choreography after Kasyan Goleizovsky, Marius Petipa and Alexander Gorsky ▶ **Michael Messerer**
Costume designer ▶ **István Rózsa**
Costume designer ▶ **Nóra Rományi**
Lighting designer ▶ **Kirk Bookman**

Cast ▶ **Diana Kosyreva, Tatiana Melnik, Gergely Leblanc, Mikalai Radziush, Iurii Kekalo, Jessica Carulla Leon, Lea Földi**

An avid and passionate reader of chivalric romances, Don Quixote decides that for the sake of his own glory and the common good, he must set out in search of adventures as a knight-errant. He sets for himself an objective no lower than to „redress grievances, right wrongs and repair injustices.” The ballet primarily focuses on a humorous love story taken from the novel by Cervantes: the tale of Kitri and Basilio, who – despite all adversity – live happily ever after through the intervention of Don Quixote.

Trois Gnossiennes
5 Tangos
Black Cake

LOL

– three pieces by Hans van Manen

SUNDAY 11 November at 2:00 p.m.
and 8:00 p.m.



B

Hans van Manen is one of those few choreographers who by combining classical ballet with modern dance and other movement techniques, has succeeded in popularizing modern ballet across a wide audience. *Trois Gnossiennes* is the third and central work in Hans van Manen's Piano Variations cycle from 1980–84. Manen choreographed this sensual duet about resignation, trust and harmony to the magical and melancholy music of Erik Satie. The piece *5 Tangos* is set to the music of Astor Piazzolla. The work, a true audience favorite, flows with fiery energy. Tango, and a little something extra. The Nederlands Dans Theater was turning 30 years old when Jiří Kylián informed Hans van Manen, "You're going to do the ballet for the anniversary." Manen replied: "Really? And what should I do?" Kylián replied: "A cake". This is how the festive parody of five movements built around humor – the irresistibly witty *Black Cake* – was conceived.



Trois Gnossiennes

Music ▶ Erik Satie

Cast ▶ Lili Felméry, Cristina Balaban, Mikalai Radziush, Iurii Kekalo

5 Tangos

Music ▶ Astor Piazzolla

Cast ▶ Kim Minjung, Karina Sarkissova, Gergő Ármin Balázsi, Gergely Leblanc

Black Cake

Music ▶ Jules Massenet, Pietro Mascagni, Igor Stravinsky, Leoš Janáček, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Cast ▶ Cristina Balaban, Lili Felméry, Balázs Majoros, Gergő Ármin Balázsi, Karina Sarkissova, Artemisz Bakó-Pisla, Ievgen Lagunov, Dmitry Timofeev, Lea Földi, Jessica Carulla Leon

HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA
and **HUNGARIAN NATIONAL BALLET**
to make U.S. debuts at

DAVID H. KOCH THEATER
Lincoln Center

Ferenc Erkel **Bánk Bán** (*The Viceroy Bánk*)
October 30 & November 3, 2018

Karl Goldmark **The Queen of Sheba**
October 31 & November 2, 2018

János Vajda / Béla Bartók **Mario and the Magician / Bluebeard's Castle**
November 1 & 3, 2018

Hungarian State Opera and **Hungarian National Ballet Gala**
November 4, 2018

Rudi van Dantzig **Swan Lake**
November 6, 7 & 8, 2018

Michael Messerer **Don Quixote**
November 9 & 10, 2018

Hans van Manen **LOL** (*Trois Gnossiennes, 5 Tangos, Black Cake*)
November 11, 2018

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets on sale from **April 16, 2018**

Early bird tickets: 30% off all tickets until **May 16, 2018**

Further concessions available from **May 16, 2018**

THE HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA
ORCHESTRA
AT *CARNEGIE HALL*

On the last day of the tour, while the Hungarian National Ballet appears in modern ballet pieces that require recorded music, the Hungarian State Opera Orchestra can perform music elsewhere. They have been invited to play at one of the most prestigious concert halls of the world – Carnegie Hall. The concert is organized in memory of Italian-born composer Aldo Finzi. The program also includes pieces by two Hungarian composers – Béla Bartók and Ernst von Dohnányi – who found their home in the U.S.

<i>Ernst von Dohnányi</i>	Symphonic Minutes
<i>Aldo Finzi</i>	Symphonic Poems
<i>Fabio Vacchi</i>	Violin Concerto
<i>Béla Bartók</i>	The Miraculous Mandarin Suite

Conductor ▶ **Balázs Kocsár**

MONDAY 5 NOVEMBER at 8:00 p.m.

