



Newsletter

Marina Kondratieva, National Artist of the USSR, one of the most romantic ballerinas in the history of the Bolshoi (1951-1978), ballet mistress of the Bolshoi (since 1988) has marked her 85th birthday. The theatre dedicated a performance of [Don Quixote](#) to her on February 13.

Three of her students — Natalia Osipova, Olga Smiornova, Margarita Shrayner — appeared as Kitri. Igor Tsvirko and Ivan Vasiliev appeared as Basilio.

Cast details

Conductor — Pavel Sorokin (February 12, 14), Pavel Klinichev (February 13)

Curtain calls on February 13. [Video by Katerina Novikova on FB](#)

A photo exhibition for the celebration of Marina Kondratieva's birthday at the foyer of the New Stage.

Terpsichore Tribute — by Ekaterina Kondratieva at the [theatre's website](#).

Vladimir Atlantov has marked his birthday on February 19.

"The Bolshoi congratulates National Artist of the USSR Vladimir Atlantov on his 80th birthday. The famous singer worked at the Bolshoi from 1967 until 1988 and performed main parts in 18 operas on its stage. On the occasion of Vladimir Atlantov's birthday the Bolshoi Theatre Museum prepares an exhibition that will open in March. One of the April performances of Verdi's *Traviata* will be dedicated to Atlantov who starred as Alfred during his career," [TASS](#) reports.

[Rossia-Kultura channel congratulated Vladimir Atlantov on his birthday](#)

[The singer talks about himself in the film Two Lives on Kultura channel](#)



The heroine of the festivities, National Artist of the USSR Marina Kondratieva. Photo by Mikhail Logvinov



Vladimir Atlantov as Hermann, the Queen of Spades by Tchaikovsky. Photo from the Bolshoi Theatre Museum

Events

Ballet [Don Quixote](#) by Ludwig Minkus was performed on February 12 and 14 at the Historic Stage.

On February 16 (12:00 and 19:00) and 17 (14:00) at the Historic Stage — the ballet by George Balanchine [Jewels](#).

Casts

Conductors — Alexei Bogorad (February 16, 12:00), Pavel Sorokin (February 16, 19:00).

The production will be shown within the Bolshoi tour in Australia ([Brisbane, June 23 – July 8](#)).

February 20-24 at the Historical Sage there was [Un Ballo in Maschera](#) by Giuseppe Verdi. A premiere of the 242 season (April 20, 2018)

Music Director – Giacomo Sagripanti
Director and Set Designer – Davide Livermore
Costume Designer – Mariana Fracasso
[The history of the opera creation](#)
[Casts](#)

On February 20 Un Ballo in Maschera presented to an audience of 16-25 year olds. The Bolshoi keeps running [The Bolshoi to Youth programme](#), meant to bring theatre and young audiences together.

The following productions will be also shown within the programme:

March 9 (12:00) – [La Fille du Pharaon](#) by Cesare Pugni at the Historic Stage.

April 20 (12:00) – [The Flames of Paris](#) by Boris Asafiev, recreated by Alexei Ratmanský at the New Stage.

On February 27-28 at the Historic Stage the ballet [Nureyev](#) by Ilya Demutsky and Yuri Possokhov was presented. The concept, direction and staging by Kirill Serebrennikov.



Nureyev at the Historic Stage on February 27 and 28.
Photo by Sergei Dyachkov

The premiere was on December 9-10, 2017.
The production was nominated for Russian na-

tional prize [Golden Mask-2019](#) as Best Production, Best Conductor – Anton Grishanin, Best Choreographer – Yuri Possokhov, Best Male Role – Vladislav Lantratov (Nureyev), Vyacheslav Lopatin (Pupil), Denis Savin (Erik), Best Music Theatre Artist – Kirill Serebrennikov, Best Music Theatre Costume Designer – [Elena Zaitseva](#), Best Music Theatre Lighting Designer – [Alexander Sivaev](#)
[Nominations on the Golden Mask-2019 website](#)
[Casts](#)



Anna Nikulina as Odette, The Swan Lake.
Photo by Photenia Christophilopulu

March 1, 2 (12:00 and 19:00) and 3 at the Historic Stage – [The Swan Lake](#) ballet by Tchaikovsky in the 2001 version by Yuri Grigorovich (fragments from versions by Marius Petipa, Leo Ivanov and Alexander Gorsky used).

Conductors – Alexei Bogorad (March 1; 2, 12:00); Music Director – Pavel Sorokin (March 2, 19:00; 3).

[Casts](#)

The Swan Lake in the stage version by Yuri Grigorovich will be performed within the [Bolshoi tour in London in August 2019](#).

This year the organ gala [The Triumph of Love](#) is held at the Historic Stage on March 5.

“The king of instruments” will demonstrate the glory if its graphic and technical qualities bending to the will and skills of an international cast of performers — Hiroko Inoue (Japan), Luca Gadalia (Abkhazia), Evgenia Krivitskaya (Russia) and Aare-Paul Lattika (Norway/Estonia).

The programme includes virtuoso toccatas by Bach, Widor, Duruflé, lyrical arias and duets by Saint-Saëns, Offenbach, Webber, as well as ballet miniatures, recitation to music, choir tutti.



The Triumph of Love at the Historic Stage on March 5

February 13, 14, 15, 16 at the New Stage the opera [Idiot](#) by Mieczysław Weinberg (1919–1996) based on the namesake novel by Dostoevsky was presented

Music Director — Michał Klauza (Poland)

Stage Director — Evgeny Arye

Set Designer — Simon Pastukh

Costume Designer — Galina Solovyova

[See more about the opera and the history of its productions at the Bolshoi](#)

In the 243 season, the Bolshoi invited Evgeny Arye, Simon Pastukh and Galina Solovyova to work on a new production — staging of the opera [Evgeny Onegin](#) by Tchaikovsky (the premiere will be on May 15, 2019). Music director — Tugan Sokhiev.

[Casts](#)

The theatre concert for children [The Guide to the Orchestra Guide. Le Carnaval Des Animaux](#) was presented at the New Stage on February 17.

Conductor — Anton Grishanin.

[Cast](#)



Petrushka. A scene from a performance. Denis Savin as Petrushka. Photo by Damir Yusupov

Of February 22, 23 (12:00 and 19:00) and 24 at the New Stage the second premiere block of one-act ballets programme — [Artifact Suite](#) by William Forsythe to music by Eva Crossman-Hecht and Johann Sebastian Bach, and Igor Stravinsky's [Petrushka](#) in original choreography by Edward Clug.

The first ballet premiere of the 243 season — the one-act ballets programme was presented at the Bolshoi on November 20, 2018.

The world audience will see the live screening of Petrushka on May 19.

[Petrushka casts](#)

[Artifact Suite casts](#)

Conductor of Artifact Suite — Pavel Klinichev (all days); Conductors of Petrushka — Pavel Klinichev (February 22, 23) and Pavel Sorokin (February 24.)

An interview with Edward Clug from the Green Salon cycle is available on the [Bolshoi official YouTube channel](#).

Next time the one-act ballet Petrushka will be presented at the New Stage along with [Carmen Suite](#) by Alberto Alonso to music by Georges Bizet and Rodion Shchedrin on May 17, 18 (12:00 and 19:00) and 19 (18:00).

The ballet [Romeo and Juliet](#) by Sergei Prokofiev in the choreographic version by Alexei Ratmansky was presented at the New Stage on February 19 and 20.

Conductor — Pavel Klinichev.

Stage and Costume Designer — Richard Hudson.

Lighting Designer — Jennifer Tipton

The premiere of the previous, 242 season (November 22, 2017).

Cast details

The production was nominated for the Russian national prize [Golden Mask–2019](#) as Best Production, Best Conductor (Pavel Klinichev), Best Female Role (Ekaterina Krysanova as Juliet), Best Male Role (Igor Tsvirko as Mercutio).

February 20 at Beethoven Hall there was a concert of the Bolshoi Chamber Orchestra titled Under The Skies Of Italy. [See more](#)

February 26 at Beethoven Hall – a [concert of the Bolshoi orchestra artists Chamber Music by Antonin Dvořák](#)

[See about rarely played chamber pieces by the composer included in this concert](#)

February 26 – a concert of the Bolshoi orchestra artists [Faces of the Bolshoi Theatre Cellists](#).

Participants – Arseny Beznosikov (cello), Pyotr Kondrashin (cello), Arseny Kotlyarevsky (cello), Igor Kotlyarevsky (piano), Tatiana Titova (piano). [See more](#)

February 28 – [Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra Violists Concert](#). Participants – violists and chamber orchestra of the Bolshoi. Conductor – Mikhail Mering.

Programme details

March 1 – Bolshoi theatre orchestra artists concert [Viola In Chamber Music](#).

They played pieces by Ludwig van Beethoven, Arnold Bax, Carl Stamitz, Alessandro Rolla, Dobrinka Tabakova, Alexander Tchaikovsky, Leonid Desyatnikov, Ivan Yankov (Blue Quartet for strings, Russian premiere).

March 3 – Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra artists concert [Baroque Music Evening](#).

February 15 and 16, at the Chamber Stage – opera by Vladimir Dashkevich [The Government Inspector](#). Libretto by Yuli Kim and Vladimir Dashkevich based on works by Nikolay Gogol. [Casts](#)

Stage Director – Olga Ivanova.

Music Director – Vladimir Agronsky

About the opera

February 17 (12:00 and 14:00), at the Chamber Stage – symphonic fairy tale for children by Sergei Prokofiev [Peter and the Wolf](#) by Boris Pokrovsky.

Performance details

February 20 at Pokrovsky Chamber Stage – Giacomo Puccini one-act opera night – [Il Tabarro](#) (Stage Directors Boris Pokrovsky and Igor Merkulov) and [Gianni Schicchi](#) (Stage Directors Boris Pokrovsky and Valery Fedorenko).

Music Director – [Vladimir Agronsky](#).

Il Tabarro cast

Gianni Schicchi cast

February 22 and 24 at Pokrovsky Chamber Stage – opera [Il mondo della luna](#) by Joseph Haydn, libretto by Carlo Goldoni.

Stage Director – [Olga Ivanova](#)

Music Director – Vladimir Agronsky

Cast details

February 24 at the Chamber stage – the stage version of [Stabat Mater cantata \(Pieta\)](#) by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi and a single opera by Francis Poulenc [La Voix Humaine](#), libretto by Jean Cocteau. Stage Director – Olga Ivanova. Conductors – Alexei Vereshchagin (Stabat Mater), Ayrat Kashaev (La Voix Humaine).



A scene from Stabat Mater. Photo from the archive of Chamber Theatre Pokrovsky

February 28 and March 1 and 2 at Pokrovsky Chamber Stage – opera-buffo by Gioachino Rossini [Il Turco In Italia](#).

Music Director – Gennady Rozhdestvnsky

Stage Director – Olga Ivanova

The world premiere was on June 13, 2017.

Cast details

The performance details

About the production on the Chamber Stage website

Conductor – [Alexei Vereshchagin](#).

March 3, Sunday, 12:00 and 16:00 – [Adventures of Cipollino](#) by Tatiana Kamysheva.

Stage Director — Igor Merkulov
 Conductor — Lev Ossofsky
 The premiere took place on March 22, 2008.

Casts

Conductor — [Ayrat Kashaev](#).

[About the production on the Chamber Stage website](#)

On March 6, 2019, at the New Stage the Bolshoi is going to present a premiere of Antonín Dvořák's [Rusalka](#). [Timofei Kulyabin](#) continues the rehearsals. It is the second collaboration between Kulyabin and The Bolshoi. In the season 2015/2016 he staged [Don Pasquale](#) by Donizetti there.

Music Director — [Ainārs Rubiķis](#) (since the 2018–19 season the chief conductor of Berlin Komische Oper; one of the winners of Mahler Conductor's Contest of 2010).

Set Designer — [Oleg Golovko](#).

Costume Designer — [Galya Solodovnikova](#).

Lighting Designer — Damir Ismagilov.

Video Designer — Alexander Lobanov.

Dramatist — [Ilya Kukhareenko](#).



A rehearsal of The Winter's Tale in choreography by Christopher Wheeldon. Photo by Gerard Juifert



Ekaterina Morozova and Oleg Dolgov at a rehearsal of Rusalka. Photo by Katerina Novikova

In the season of 2018/19 at the Historic Stage the Bolshoi will have a premiere of a ballet by Joby Talbot [The Winter's Tale](#). Libretto by Christopher Wheeldon and Joby Talbot after the play of the same name by William Shakespeare.

Choreographer: Christopher Wheeldon

Music Director: Anton Grishanin

Set and Costume Designer: Bob Crowley

Lighting Designer: Natasha Katz

Video Designer: Daniel Brodie

The premiere will be on April 4, 2019.

On March 22 Pokrovsky Chamber Stage presents a premiere of two operas by Gian Carlo Menotti (1911–2007) [The Telephone](#) and [The Medium](#).

Stage Director — [Alexander Molochnikov](#)

Music Director and Conductor — Alexei Vereschagin

Set Designers — Sergei Tchoban, Agniya Sterligova

Costume Designer — [Maria Danilova](#)

Lighting Designer — [Aivar Salikhov](#)

The productions will be presented on March 23 and 24 and on April 12 and 13 as well.



Alexander Molochnikov keeps working on The Medium and The Telephone by Gian Carlo Menotti. Photo / facebook of Anna Semenyuk

On March 6 the Bolshoi orchestra will give a charity [concert at Moscow State Lomonosov University](#). The programme includes the 2nd Symphony by Sergei Ra-

khmaninov Conductor — the chief conductor and musical director of the Bolshoi Tugan Sokhiev.

The concert for students and professors will take place at the Moscow University main concert venue within the 20th anniversary of the programme MSU Rector Invites at MSU Culture Centre (Leninskie Gory str. 1, MSU main building, 2nd floor.) 17:00.

March 13–17 — the [Bolshoi Choir, Opera and Orchestra French tour](#).

Conductor — Tugan Sokhiev,
Chorus Master — Valery Borisov.

The performances will be held at Halle aux Grains in Toulouse and at Pierre Boulez Hall of Paris Philharmonic.

The Toulouse performances will be held within the annual festival [Les Musicales Franco-Russe](#) (February 22 — March 16). Tugan Sokhiev is the artistic director.

[The Bolshoi Choir concert](#) (March 13)

Opera by Pyotr Tchaikovsky [The Queen of Spades](#) in a concert version (March 14), opera by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov [The Maid of Pskov / Ivan the Terrible](#) in a concert version (March 15)

[The Maid of Pskov / Ivan the Terrible](#) by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov in a concert version (March 16) and a concert [Russian Spring](#) (March 17) at Paris Philharmonic website

See the tour schedule and cast details in the article [Paris And Toulouse In Anticipation Of Russian Spring](#) at the theatre's website.



Conductor Ignat Solzhenitsyn as a guest of Katerina Novikova at the [Green Salon of the Bolshoi](#)

The hero of the interview cycle [Green Salon](#) is conductor [Ignat Solzhenitsyn](#). Ignat Solzhenitsyn talks to the head of the Bolshoi Press Office Katerina Novikova about his family and work, love of music and its importance in his father's writings, about the role Rostropovich played in his professional upbringing. On October 7 at the Chamber Stage the Bolshoi has presented Alexander Tchaikovsky's opera [One Day In the Life of Ivan](#)

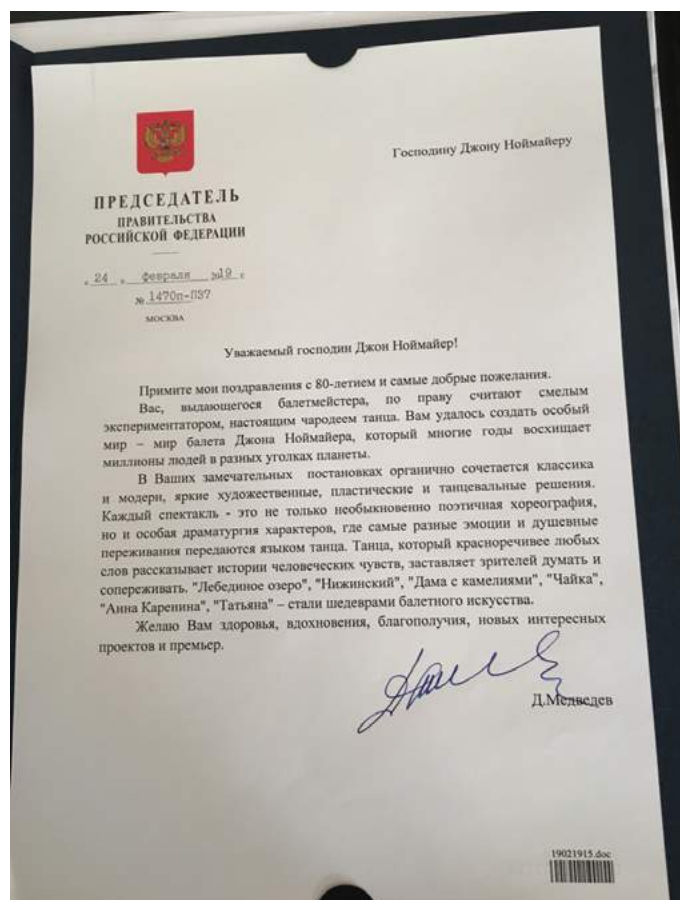
[Denisovich](#) on the occasion of the 100th birthday of Alexander Solzhenitsyn. The conductor was Ignat Solzhenitsyn. Next performances of the opera will be on April 20 and 21.

[A gala The World Of John Neumeier](#) was held on Sunday, February 24, at Grosses Haus Staatsoper—Hamburg.

The 4-hour gala consisted of John Neumeier's story about the love of his life — ballet. His native company of Hamburg Ballet, students and world stars including Alina Cojocaru, Alessandra Ferri, Manuel Legris, Laetitia Pujol, Artem Ovcharenko, Olga Smirnova, Roberto Bolle, Guillaume Cote performed fragments from his productions from different years.

The choreographer's favourite artists Ivan Urban, Alexander Ryabko, Anna Lauder, Edvin Revazov, Silvia Azzoni, Carsten Jung were on stage that evening.

Famous pianist and conductor Christoph Eschenbach played a piece by Schumann in one of the fragments. Among guests there were Jürgen Rose, Brigitte Lefebvre, Nikolai Khubbe, Laurent Hilaire, Elisabeth Platel, Reed Anderson, Thomas Dieter, Karen Kain and many others.



The message of congratulations from Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev to John Neumeier, February 24

Vladimir Urin handed John Neumeier a message of congratulations from Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev:

“Moscow, February 24.

Dear Mr. John Neumeier!

Please accept my congratulations on your 80th birthday and my best wishes.

As a prominent choreographer, you are rightfully considered a daring experimentalist, a true wizard of dance. You managed to create a special realm – the realm of John Neumeier’s ballet that for many years has continued to delight millions of people all over the world.

Classics and modernity, vivid artistry, plastique and dancing solutions are naturally combined in your remarkable productions. Every performance is not only an unusually poetic choreography but also a particular drama of characters where very different emotions and experiences are expressed by the language of dance. The dance speaks volumes about the story of human feelings making the audience thoughtful and compassionate. The Swan Lake, Nijinsky, The Lady of the Camellias, The Seagull, Anna Karenina, Tatiana have all become masterpieces of ballet art.

I wish you health, inspiration, well-being and new and interesting projects and premieres.”

Video from curtain calls at the gala of February 24 on [Facebook](#) (6’12”)

The evening covered by:

[Hamburger Abendblatt](#) (Annette Stiekele)

[Hamburger Morgenpost](#) (Dagmar Ellen Fischer)

[Danza Ballet](#) (Barcelona, Spain)

and many other media.



Praising John Neumeier on his birthday; photo above – the choreographer with artist Jürgen Rose and the Bolshoi director general Vladimir Urin; photo below – (sitting) Irina Chernomurova, Olga Smirnova, Brigitte Lefebvre, Elisabeth Platel, Catherine Dumont; (standing) Laetitia Pujol, Katerina Novikova, Laurent Hilaire, Artem Ovcharenko, Manuel Legris; February 24. Photo / facebook



[Hamburger Abendblatt](#)

Congratulations from: [Rossia–Kultura](#)
[A screening of Nijinsky ballet by John Neumeier](#)
[Hamburg Ballet on February 24](#)
[ClassicalMusicNews](#)
[Kulturomania](#)

The German broadcaster [Deutsche Welle](#) publishes an article and a video interview with the choreographer on their website.

Press analysis:

Russian mass media

Russian media widely covered the celebration of Marina Kondratieva at the Bolshoi on February 13 with the Don Quixote ballet dedicated to the National Artist of the USSR.

According to Kondratieva, she has approved of the choice of [the performance in her honour](#). “Don Quixote is the only ballet from classical heritage that I had never danced myself yet have been dreaming to all my life.”

Besides three performers of the role of Kitri “Another two of Kondratieva’s students took part in the performance – Yulia Stepanova and Ana Turazashvili. Igor Tsvirko (Act 1 and Act 2) and Ivan Vasiliev (Act 3 the final act) appeared in turn as Basilio.

Conductor – Pavel Sorokoin.

[Rossia 1](#)

[RIA Novosti](#)



Russia channel:

“The anniversary of legendary prima Marina Kondratieva celebrated at the Bolshoi Historic Stage”

[Orfei Radio](#)
[NDT channel](#)
[Kommersant](#)
 and dozens of other media.

The Ticket Refunding Protocol for tickets purchased with ID control will be launched at the Bolshoi in March, [TASS](#) reports (Thursday, 13:18) with reference to the Bolshoi director general Vladimir Urin. Refund Rules for personal tickets were published on the theatre website on February 20.

National Artist Of Russia Anna Netrebko may voluntarily take part in any regular performance of the Bolshoi suitable to her voice. The Bolshoi director general Vladimir Urin said so in his [TASS interview](#) answering the singer’s interview with a TASS reporter in Vienna.

“I hope to see Anna in the nearest future and discuss possible real timing,” Urin said. According to his words, the Bolshoi will do its best to let Netrebko sing more often at its stage. “The Bolshoi is very interested in it. As always, it will be a big event for the theatre itself and for the audience,” Urin said.

Guest soloists of the Bolshoi Anna Netrebko and Yusif Eivazov spoke in an interview to [Komsomolskaya Pravda](#) about their performances in Russia, family life and the upbringing of their son. A joint concert of world opera stars will take place in the Kremlin Palace on June 4 – Anna Netrebko, Yusif Eivazov, Olga Peretyatko and Andrea Bocelli.

The world opera stars talk about the Bolshoi, revealing their creative plans, in a detailed interview published by [Izvestia](#).

The MSCA rector, National Artist of Russia Marina Leonova marked a double anniversary.

[TASS](#) report of February 18 (Olga Svistunova): “She turns 70 and 50 of those years were given to creative

work. “Yet there are no special parties planned for the occasion,” said the birthday lady. “I will have a usual working day, the school year is in full play, so I must be in place from dawn till dusk. ... Maybe I will mark my 50th creative anniversary in June, at the MSCA graduation party on stage of the Bolshoi which our former students – and now world ballet stars – Natalia Osipova... Ksenia Ryzhkova... promised to take part in.” Marina Leonova’s short biography in [In The Name Of Russian Ballet](#) section.

[Vesti](#)
[Rossiya – Kultura](#)
[Radio Kultura](#)
[Rewizor.ru](#)
 and other sources.



National Artist of Russia rector of MSCA Marina Leonova
 Photo / www.bolshoi.ru

Russian president Vladimir Putin in his address to the Federal Assembly on February 20 offered to exempt regional museums, theatres and libraries from profit tax making this rebate permanent, [TASS](#) reported.

According to Putin, it will allow the institutions to save four billion annually and direct this money to their development and to increase their employees’ salary.

Elizaveta Evdoshina talks about formulation of the bill on “creative workers demand assessment” in [Nezavisimaya Gazeta](#). The idea of an actors evaluation was brought up as long ago as 2013 yet then the bill was left unfinished. It was supposed that an employee’s contract

should expire if they were not elected to their position according to contest results. The current bill has evoked a wide discussion, too: what do bureaucrats think creative demand is and what will the criteria of the said evaluation be?

About choreographer Kasyan Golejzovski and his Coppelias at the Bolshoi — in [Kommersant Weekend](#) “The invitation of Kasyan Golejzovski to stage Coppelias by Delibes at the Bolshoi in 1941 seems an inexplicable happenstance/ ... In spring 1941, after several years of despondency and occasional work somewhere on remote national borderlands, the leftist experimentalist and formalist, advocate of on-stage nakedness returns to the rehearsal rooms of the Bolshoi. His long absence played a blissful role. Golejzovski was out of sight and the last memory the authorities have about him was that he made a good showing at the recent Tajik Art decade in Moscow. We may suggest that the “smuggling” of Golejzovski was done under a typical ballet excuse — the theatre desperately needed a “new edition” of Coppelias by Alexander Gorsky that had been running on stage since 1900s.”



The model of the set by Vadim Ryndin for the production of Coppelias at the Bolshoi in 1941. Photo from the archive of the Bolshoi Theatre Museum.

[VTB online portal](#) published an interview by the head of the Bolshoi Press Office Katerina Novikova with leading soloist of the Bolshoi ballet company Jacopo Tissi. The dancer speaks about his life in Moscow, Russian language and ballet.

“KN: “One of the brightest moments in your career was the participation in the La Scala Russian repertoire when Makhar Vaziev (who was then the director of La Scala Ballet) offered you the part of the Prince in The Sleeping Beauty, and Svetlana Zakharova became your partner...”

“JT: It was a wonderful moment in my career and my life, of course. And an enormous responsibility for it was the world premiere. And with Svetlana Zakharova to

top it off, who gave me the opportunity to dance this debut with her. Makhar highly appreciates choreographer Alexei Ratmansky who worked then on the production of The Sleeping Beauty at La Scala. We worked with him a lot. It was a very important stage in my life. //”



Leading soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet Jacopo Tissi. Photo provided by the theatre Press Department.

[La Personne](#) magazine also publishes an article about leading soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet Jacopo Tissi.

Apollo magazine publishes an article Russian Heart about life and creative career of the ballerina, tutor and choreographer Tatiana Leskova. The author of the article Katerina Novikova tells us about the ballerina’s family, about how she happened to be in the class of famous imperial ballerina and prominent tutor Lubov Egorova and later in the De Basil company. “There is a book and a film in English about Tatiana Leskova. Yet in Russian there is none. ... I still hope to change that. So that my compatriots could hear her stories about what Mikhail Fokin and Leonide Massine



Apollo magazine publishes an article Russian Heart about ballerina, tutor and choreographer Tatiana Leskova.

were like, how she met Rudolf Nureyev, what did the Paris of her childhood look like. Meanwhile Tatiana Leskova being one of the few living ballerinas of that generation keeps delighting us with her cheerfulness, clear mind, energy and optimism.” The printed and scanned versions of the magazine are available upon request at the press department.

Apollo magazine also tells us about a book of by prominent dancer and choreographer Azari Plisetsky *Life In Ballet*. Azari Plisetsky has been working on his book for many years recollecting details of his eventful life. “Unlike his famous sister he had no diaries and thus had to do an enormous preparation work based on letters, family archives, talking to eyewitnesses of various events. The memoir of Azari Plisetsky differs in tone and detail and even in perspective from the book *I, Maya Plisetskaya* and involuntarily engaging in controversy with it adds some new volume to history and people.”



Apollo magazine publishes a review on the book by Azari Plisetsky *Life In Ballet*.

Tatarstan-24 remembers Irina Arkhipova in a video plot adding that this year the 26th International Glinka Vocal Competition will be held in Kazan (Aprin 11–19): “The competition was held for the first time in Kazan 20 years ago chaired by National Artist of the USSR Irina Arkhipova.... The competition... became a trampoline to fame for many world stage masters. Vladimir Atlantov, Elena Obraztsova, Dmitry Khvorostovsky, Anna Netrebko were the winners of the competition in different years.

National Artist of the USSR, Hero of Socialist Labour, singer and music tutor Irina Arkhipova was the jury chairman of the International Glinka Vocal Competition from 1968 till 2009. The International Glinka Vocal Competition is one of the oldest vocal contests in Russia, it was arranged in December 1960 and is held once in two years in different Russian cities.

[The 26th International Glinka Vocal Competition](#)



Irina Arkhipova and Dmitry Khvorostovsky, the 12th International Glinka Vocal Competition in Baku, 1987. Photo / Krasnoyarsk local history museum

Young opera soloist from the Bolshoi Ilya Selivanov who sang Alfred in *Traviata* has become one of the discoveries of the International Shalyapin Vocal Contest that ended on February 23, **[Kazan Real Time](#)** reports.

The Bolshoi opera soloist (since the beginning of the 243 season) spoke about his work at the theatre in an interview.



The Bolshoi Opera soloist **[Ilya Selivanov](#)**

[Real Time](#) also publishes a review by Ulkar Alieva on the singer's appearance as Alfred (February 20) in *Traviata* (Dreams Of Happiness At Shalyapin Festival): “The appearance of the Bolshoi opera young soloist Ilya

Selivanov as Alfred may be rightfully called the festival discovery. His amazing performance has drawn the audience's attention from the title heroine to him... Selivanov's Alfred demonstrated generosity both vocally and of the soul, fascinated the audience with his soft soaring lyric tenor (his easily taken high notes are remarkable), rich shades and clear articulation."

On March 11 at the Historic Stage Ilya Selivanov will appear as Mikhailo Tucha in a concert version of [The Maid of Pskov](#) by Rimsky-Korsakov (conductor — Tugan Sokhiev).

The artistic director of Ballett Zurich Christian Spuck speaks about the Bolshoi Theatre and Russia in an interview to [Kommersant-Stil](#):

"What are you fond of in Russian culture, art, history?"

"I come to Russia often and I am genuinely excited about the country's cultural heritage. ... I take every opportunity to see the Bolshoi performances — and not only for their artistic merit. Being at the Bolshoi you feel how important the ballet is for Russian culture, how meaningful and loved it is here — perhaps like nowhere else in the world. I think a lot about the link between culture and religion that is close enough in Russia. Taking a wider angle, I was always charmed by the contrast between Russians seemingly cold and detached when you first meet them and their heartfelt—warmth and sincerity when you get in closer contact. Russians have a big heart and Russia is the country I always feel at home in.

Media report the the Bolshoi will be one of the venues of the second award ceremony of the International Professional Music Prize BraVo.

The award ceremony in the Classical Art category will be held on March 19 at the Historic Stage, [Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#) announces. (John Travolta And Daughter Of Montserrat Caballé Coming To Moscow).

"The first evening [at the Historic Stage] dedicated to classical music will welcome opera singers such as Angela Gheorghiu, Alessandro Safina, Hao Jiang Tian [according to the publication], Il Volo opera trio and others. The audience will hear the voices of Venera Gimadieva, Vladislav Sulimsky and Bogdan Volkov. For ballet fans Svetlana Zakharova will present an exclusive piece prepared specially for the event. Eccentric Sergei Polunin will also appear on the stage of the Bolshoi," [Orfei](#) informs.

Press analysis:

international mass media

Russian and foreign media cover the opening of the musical festival in Toulouse by chief conductor of the Bolshoi Tugan Sokhiev. The Bolshoi Orchestra and Choir are special guests of the festival this year.



Halle Aux Grains in Toulouse. Photo / [gps](#)

French media widely announce the performances of the Bolshoi Choir, Orchestra and Opera under Tugan Sokhiev in Toulouse within special programme of Franco-Russian Musicales (February 22 – March 16).

The online specialised classical music publication [ClassiqueNews.com](#) (France) announces that the radio station "FRANCE MUSIC, Russian Week: March 11–15, 2019 will have a series of special broadcasts. "The Bolshoi in the spotlight with the chef Tugan Sokhiev guest star. The radio channel dedicates 7 days to Russian music and in particular the school of Bolshoi, flagship of the musical tradition of Russia. Brilliant leader of his generation, Tugan Sokhiev, music director of the Capitole de Toulouse, shares his musical life between two institutions: in France, the Capitol Orchestra which he has done for over 10 years — following Michel Plasson — one of the most celebrated French conductors in the world; and in Russia, the legendary Bolshoi Theatre. The interpreter embodies this double excellence."

The French newspaper [La Depeche](#) reports, "Tugan Sokhiev will open the first Franco-Russian Musicales tomorrow Friday (22 February) at the Halle Aux Grains with The Damnation of Faust by Berlioz.



March 13–17 – the Bolshoi Choir, Opera and Orchestra
[French tour will be in France](#)

The conductor evokes the reciprocal love that the two cultures have for each other.” The newspaper publishes a long Q&A interview by Jean-Marc Le Scouarnec with Mr Sokhiev.

“In Toulouse, you will conduct your two main orchestras, the Capitol and Bolshoi. Is it easy to switch from one to the other?”

“Now I’m used to it! And I’m also a guest conductor around the world for many other orchestras. Of course, the Capitol and Bolshoi are different in terms of tradition, heritage, sound ... Their main common point is the practice of opera, their lyrical dimension. And their requirement. I find them very complementary. Besides, the things I’m looking for here with the Capitol, I always try to introduce them there. And vice versa.”

“19 performances are planned as part of the first Franco-Russian Musicales. In addition to tomorrow’s Berlioz concert, Tugan Sokhiev will lead the Bolshoi Orchestra and Choir, as part of Great Performers, with Tchaikovsky’s *The Queen of Spades* on Thursday, March 14, and *Ivan the Terrible* by Rimsky-Korsakov, Friday, March 15th.” [In the opera *The Maid Of Pskov* — ed. note]

The online specialised classical music publication [France Musique](#) (France) announces a series of special programmes to be broadcast as part of the Russian Music Week “France Musique unveils its Russian week and puts the Bolshoi in the spotlight!”

The online specialised French culture publication [Culture 31](#) publishes an article by Nicolas Coulaud. “With this festival, Toulouse is fully in keeping with the spirit of the Trianon Dialogue, which aims to promote exchanges between France and Russia.” “The Orchestra and Choir of the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow (also directed by Tugan Sokhiev) are naturally at the centre of the programme.” The article includes posters from the event and photos from the press conference.

There is also information at:

[France24](#)

[FranceMusique](#)

[Franceculture.fr](#)

“The annual musical festival Les Musicales Franco-Russes organised at the initiative of the music director and chief conductor of the Bolshoi Tugan Sokhiev has opened on Friday, February 22, in Toulouse. The Choir and Capitole Orchestra of Toulouse under direction of Tugan Sokhiev performed the dramatic legend *The Damnation of Faust* by Hector Berlioz,” [TASS](#) reports.

The agency also reports that the Bolshoi music director Tugan Sokhiev is also the director of the Orchestra Capitole de Toulouse since 2008: “Holding this post maestro puts a lot of efforts into bringing Russia and France closer via frequent performance of music by Russian composers.” The festival will close on March 16 with the demonstration of the film *New Babylon* by Leonid Trauberg and Grigory Kozintsev. “The film made in 1929 was the cinema debut of Dmitry Shostakovich who wrote music for the film”. TASS also notices that Toulouse city administration supports the festival.

[Radio Orfei](#) also announces the opening of the festival.

The Italian newswire [AISE](#) (Italy) announces the 2019 season at Teatro Massimo in Palermo which includes *Carmen Suite* by Alberto Alonso with Svetlana Zakharova, along with the great classic of the nineteenth-century ballet, the *Christmas Nutcracker* with Jacopo Tissi in the title role, continuing the path undertaken of exceptional versatility.

People magazine (USA) and Yahoo News the online international news publication publishes an article and interview by Maura Hohman about the Bolshoi ballerina Olga Smirnova. “Olga Smirnova is the 25-year-old prima ballerina for the Russian Bolshoi Ballet and the star of *The Sleeping Beauty*, a film version of the classic ballet that hits U.S. theatres March 10. Since discovering dance as a young girl she has spent her life strengthening her body for her art.” Smirnova shares information about her diet and training. “And Smirnova is quick to dispel myths about ballerinas starving themselves

to stay thin. “You need to have some harmony in your body, and harmony doesn’t mean that you are extremely thin,” she says. “Ballerinas don’t really struggle to stay in shape because we train and eat like athletes.”

The article includes a lot of photos of the ballerina.

[People](#) (USA)

[YahooNews.com](#)



Local newspapers and online publications announce upcoming screening of Bolshoi Ballet productions in local cinemas.

The UK local newspaper [Gainsborough Standard](#) (UK) announces a chance to win tickets to an upcoming screening of the Bolshoi’s *Sleeping Beauty* in local cinemas. To win the reader has to guess in which country the Bolshoi Theatre is located.

[Courier Gazette and Camden Herald](#) (USA) announces “A resplendent classical fairytale ballet, *The Sleeping Beauty* features scores of magical characters including fairies, Little Red Riding Hood and Puss in Boots. This performance was captured live on Jan. 22, 2017.”

A Greek online news publication [New Post](#) (Greece) also announces upcoming screening of the Bolshoi *Sleeping Beauty* in local cinemas.

The Italian local online news publication [Open Toscana](#) (Italy) reports about *Danza In Fiera* in Flor-

ence on 24 February. “Among the most anticipated names in Florence are the stars of world ballet Evgenia Obraztsova, Russian dancer of international fame, soloist of the Mariinsky Theatre since 2002 and principal of the Bolshoi Theatre of Moscow and the étoile Lucia Lacarra.”

Opera Now magazine (UK) in its February 2019 issue features Russian soprano Venera Gimadieva on its cover and a video interview as well as an in-depth interview inside the magazine.

[Link to the video interview](#) (34 minutes)



Venera Gimadieva on the cover of the Opera Now February 2019 issue.

Russian soprano Venera Gimadieva, a rising star of belcanto opera, talks to Ashutosh Khandekar of Opera Now about her well-plotted journey from exotic Tatarstan to the great stages of the opera world, acting on good advice whenever it came her way.

At the Bolshoi Theatre they had created the Young Artists Opera Programme and she went to study there at the age of 25 after studying at the St Petersburg Conservatory. “Maestro Dmitri Vdovin, she says, it was a really interesting 2 years there at this programme. It was absolutely concentrated on professional things. It was very good for us to understand this world” “Our teacher gave us a few arias which was very good for our voices and we were very well prepared for auditions.” “It was really good times these 2 years.” “They prepared us to be international singers. We learned English and Italian. They invited a lot of stage directors and agents. “She also talks about working with Kirill Serebrennikov.

The February edition of the German opera magazine *Opern Glas* features Russian soprano Irina Lungu on its cover. *Opern Glas* publishes a long interview with Russian soprano. The article by Dr Andreas Laska is titled “IRINA LUNGU: Absolutely convinced” Irina Lungu speaks about repertoire and career planning including her plans for belcanto operas, and about the necessity to make even uncomfortable decisions.

On April 20 and 22 Irina Lungu will appear as Violetta Valéry in *Traviata* by Verdi at the Bolshoi.

The printed version of the magazine is available upon request at the press department.

Bolshoi Mourns the Loss

Tragic news came from Latvia on February 26. Andrejs Žagars has passed away.



Andrejs Žagars, October 16, 1958 – February 26, 2019

Andrejs Žagars was the director of Latvian National opera in 1996–2013. He made his debut as a stage director for opera in 2002, he staged operas in Latvia and

other countries and took part in international festivals. His works include *Carmen*, *Lady Macbeth of Mtzensk*, *Nabukko* and *Il Ballo in Maschera*.

Andrejs Žagars was born on October 16, 1958 in Siberia where his parents lived in exile. He grew up in Cēsis, graduated as an actor from theatre department of Latvian State Conservatory, played roles at the theatre and cinema.

He featured in 13 films including *The Long Road In Dunes*, *The Match Will Be Held Regardless Of The Weather*, *Life Of Klim Samgin* and others.

The theatre bloomed under his direction. He had created the first summer festival, kick-started careers of Kristine Opolais and of world famous Latvian conductor Andrejs Nelson (now musical director of Boston Symphony Orchestra).

He was the project manager of Big Ballet and Big Opera at *Rossia-Kultura* channel, had twice brought Riga Opera to Moscow and hosted the Bolshoi at his theatre, including *Eugene Onegin* and *The Children of Rosenthal*.

The director was awarded the People's Friendship order for enhancing cultural relations between Russia and Latvia.

The Bolshoi mourns and expresses its sincere condolences to friends and family of the outstanding actor, director and theatre worker of Latvia Andrejs Žagars.

Director General Vladimir Urin expressed condolences on behalf of the Bolshoi Theatre (*Novosti Kultury* on *Rossia-K* channel, 19:30)

The passing of Andrejs Žagars reported by:

[Sputnik Latvia](#)

[TASS](#)

[RT in Russian](#)

[Rossia-Kultura](#)

[Ren-TV](#)

and many other sources.

In brief

February 27 – prima ballerina of the Bolshoi, Merited Artist Of Russia Anna Nikulina appeared as Frigia in Aram Khachaturyan's ballet *Spartacus* by Yuri Grigorievich on stage of [Novosibirsk Ballet](#).

The 20th century choreographic masterpiece was presented within [the opening of the All-Russia Theatre Marathon in Novosibirsk](#), after the ceremonial handing of the Year of Theatre symbol to the Siberian Federal District held on the stage of Novosibirsk Opera and Ballet by national artist of Russia, rector of the Vaganova Ballet Academy Nikolai Tsiskaridze.

The Bolshoi director general of the Bolshoi Vladimir Urin attended the event.

All-Russia Theatre Marathon is the major project of the Year of Theatre announced in 2019 in Rus-

sia. The Marathon started in Vladivostok, it will cover 85 regions and terminate in Kaliningrad in the end of 2019. The country dignitaries hand a specially designed symbol of the Year of Theatre to the head of the theatre that opens the Marathon and then every touring theatre passes the token to the hosting region. About 100 Russian theatres will take part in the Marathon. The symbolic theatre torch has already passed Khabarovsk, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Pertopavlovsk-Kamchatsky, Birobijan, Blagoveschensk, Magadan, Anadyr, Yakutsk, Chita, Ulan-Yde.

February 26 – the Bolshoi press office hosted a press conference of Agraf publishing house that publishes mostly books on classic music, opera and dance (Magic Flute series).

Agraf together with its branch Kraft+ presented books *How To Watch Opera* (compiled by editors Alexei Parin and Aya Makarova), *Opera Stars In Spotlight: Conversations With Singers* by Maria Babalova and *Adventures Of Russian Opera In Italy* by Elena Petrushanskaya as well as an edited copy of *Taste of Dance* by Alexander Firer.

[See more](#)

[The First Channel](#) on February 27 (00:00) a documentary about Mstislav Rostropovich Just Slava (Russia, 2019; producer Svetlana Turner).



First Channel on February 27 (00:00) showed a documentary about Mstislav Rostropovich.
Photo of 1948 / [ClassicalMusicNews](#)

The premiere is covered by [Intermedia](#) and [ClassicalMusicNews](#)

“Rostropovich was 28 when he won the main prize of his life – opera diva Galina Vishnevskaya. They managed to stay happily married for 52 years. Yuri Bashmet, Irina Shostakovich (widow of composer Dmitry Shostakovich), Natalia Solzhenitsyna (the writer’s widow), Maris Jansons (chief conductor of Berlin Radio orchestra), Hugh Wolf (chief conductor of Belgium National orchestra), Henry Fogel (executive director of Washington National orchestra in 1981–1985), Dmitry Berman and others took part in the film.

March 13 an official ceremony will be held on the induction of Jiří Kylián as academician of [French Fine Arts Academy](#).

Before that, the Academy had admitted only one representative of dance world – Maurice Béjart. The Academy has one theatre representative Hugh Galles who was director of Opera de Paris for 10 years and now director of Giverny Museum.

Jiří Kylián will enter the Foreign Associate Members section of the Academy, taking the chair of late artist Leonardo Cremonini. The nomination confirms the importance of dance for the Fine Arts Academy where the choreography section was created only in 2018. Before that, only Maurice Béjart of Terpsichore subjects had held the title of academician. He passed away in 2007.

On March 4 the first concert of Leonid Desyatnikov in Novosibirsk takes place. The concert will be a part of the modern music festival mARTovsky KOD at the Chamber Hall of the Novosibirsk Philharmonic. The programme includes 24 piano preludes Bukovina Songs the composer wrote in 2017, and a vocal cycle *Poet’s Love And Life* written in 1989 to poems of Nikolai Oleynikov and Daniil Kharmis. Piano – Alexei Goribol, soprano – Yulia Kropachyova. Information from [Interfax](#), [Rwizor.ru](#) and other sources.

Reviews are still published on the new production of [Stanislavsky Music Theatre](#). “The MAMT held the world premiere of *The Devil in Love: What made* conductor Vladimir Jurovski and director Alexander Titel turn to an opera by Alexander Vustin written 30 years ago,” – an article by Ekaterina Kretova in [MK](#).

On February 15 and 17 the Bolshoi opera soloist, mezzo soprano, Merited Artist of Russia Alexandra Durseneva appeared as a guest singer as Donna Mencia in this premiere.

Stage Director – Alexander Titel

Musical Director and Conductor – Vladimir Jurovski (first performance at MAMT).

Set Designer – Vladimir Arefiev.

On February 13 the Joffrey Ballet presented a new joint project by Ilya Demutsky and Yuri Possokhov the ballet [Anna Karenina](#) at Auditorium Theatre, Chicago. The company presented 10 performances in Chicago: February 13, 15, 16 (14:00 and 19:30), 17 (14:00), 21, 22, 23 (14:00 and 19:30), 24 (14:00).

[7 Days](#) (USA) newspaper publishes an interview with Ilya Demutsky.

On February 18–24 National Artist of the USSR, Makvala Kasrashvili, assistant of the Bolshoi chief conductor and music director, gave master-classes at the Accademia di Canto Renata Tebaldi, Mario Del Monaco in Pesaro, Italy.

[Information on Facebook](#)

Russian Minister of Culture Vladimir Medinsky announced full-scale changes awaiting Russian theatres in the Year of Theatre. This is about the 44th federal law on state procurements. Medinsky announced: “The creative process and state procurements are incompatible. It is impossible to auction a director, to replace an actor, to buy costumes and stage settings by the gross. It is not only about altering the 44th federal law but also about possibly carving theatres and other cultural institutions out of standard goods and services procedures. The carving can be done in various ways,” [Moskovsky Komsomolets](#) reports. This includes the suggestion to free theatres from the obligation to purchase author’s and related rights and to increase tenfold the one-supplier purchasing limits for cultural institutions.

The archive of Serge Lidot, the photographer of the Diaghilev Russian Seasons in Paris, will be first shown in Russia within 11th Moscow International Biennale, Fashion and Style in Photography, at [Moscow’s Manezh Central Exhibition Hall](#). The show includes 40 photo exhibitions of national and foreign photographers. Masters from different countries taking part in the biennale – Russia, France, Italy, USA, China, Spain and many others. 15 February–31 March 2019.

[The Multimedia Art Museum](#) presents an exhibition of one of the most well-known and brilliant contemporary French photographers Gerard Uferas within the International Biennale. MAM has already shown Uferas’s creative works to Russian audience. His works were exhibited at the Fashion & Style festivals in 2003, 2007 and 2009. Gerard Uferas’s work addresses a new project to a modern cultural phenomenon called “museum”. The author sets a whole range of questions – What is a museum? How it is transformed in the 21st century? Is there any special practice of visiting a museum? What do we go to a museum for? How do we look at art objects, and what do we see in fact?

INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL MUSIC AWARDS



On March 19 second award ceremony of the International Professional Music Prize BraVo for classical art will be held at the Historic Stage of the Bolshoi. The number of participants include first-rate stars such as Italian tenor Vittorio Grigolo, unique soprano Angela Gheorghiu, well-known opera and pop singer Alessandro Safina, famous Chinese bass Hao Jiang Tian, Chinese composer, multi-instrumentalist and singer Du Yun, Il Volo opera trio and many others. This evening the audience will hear the voices of outstanding opera performers Venera Gimadieva, Vladislav Sulimsky and Bogdan Volkov. The world famous Hollywood actor John Travolta and the winner of most prestigious cinema awards marvelous Helen Mirren will be special guests at the ceremony.

The gala programme includes a concert of the Bolshoi choir and orchestra with conductor Pavel Klinichev. Ballet fans will get a unique gift: incomparable Svetlana Zakharova will present an exclusive piece prepared specially for the event. Eccentric Sergei Polunin, with his unmatched dance technique and expression, will also appear on the main classic stage of Russia.

Opera stars of the Bolshoi and Mariinsky will do a tribute to loving memory of unsurpassed Montserrat Caballé. (Montserrat Marti-i-Caballé, daughter of the famous singer, will perform the main part.

Social networks



Olga Smirnova on [Instagram](#) on February 24:
 “How to touch something Timeless — John Neumeier’s artistic genius is stunningly true and profoundly touching!”



Alina Cojocaru — Best Female Classical Dancer
 (The Sleeping Beauty by Royal Ballet Covent Garden)
 at the National Dance Awards in London 2018, February 18.
 Photo / [twitter](#)



[Jessie Norman](#) was awarded the 12th Glenn Gould Prize
 for her outstanding contribution to the art of opera,
 Toronto, February 20.



ATV TV production recorded
 a program about DMITRI VDOVIN famous vocal teacher,
 head of Bolshoi Theater Youth Opera Program.
 Among his students there are many famous singers
 performing now all over the world.
 1st row, sitting (left to right): Andrei Jiliovski (baritone),
 Vasilissa Berganskaya (mezzo-soprano),
 Vasily Ladyuk (baritone),
 Katerina Novikova (head of press dpt, Bolshoi theater),
 DMITRI VDOVIN, Rusana Lisizian (opera coach),
 Irina Gorbunova (head of press Stanislavski theater)
 2nd row standing: Sergei Romanovsky (tenor)
 Ilya Kutuykhin (baritone), Maxim Mironov (tenor),
 Alexandyr Pokidchenko (composer),
 Tatyana Azova (Bolshoi theater),
 Olga Kulchinskaya (soprano), Tamuna Gochashvili (soprano)
 and Bogdan Volkov (tenor) between them.

Debuts

Jewels

February 16 (12:00)

[Alexandra Trikoz](#), [Fuad Mamedov](#) — two leading couples (Part I, Emeralds)

[Angelina Vlashinets](#) — Soloist (Part II, Rubies)

[Fuad Mamedov](#) — Soloist (Part III, Diamonds)

February 17

Anastasia Goryacheva — Two leading couples (debut in the 1st couple Part I, Emeralds)

Un Ballo in Maschera

February 20

[Riccardo Massi](#) for the first time at the Bolshoi (also February 22 and 24) appeared as Richard (debuted at the Bolshoi in October 2016 as Des Grieux in premiere series of Manon Lescaut by Giacomo Puccini.)

Mariinsky opera soloist [Tatiana Serjan](#) debuted as Amelia (also February 22 and 24).

Anna Aglatova as Oscar.

[Alexander Borodin](#) (opera company soloist since November 2018) as Tom.

February 21

Astrakhan Opera leading soloist and permanent guest soloist of the Bolshoi, Merited Artist of Russia [Elena Razgulyaeva](#) debuted as Amelia (also February 23).

Petrushka

February 23 (12:00)

[Denis Zakharov](#) (Denis Medvedev's student, graduated from MSCA in 2018) debuted in the main role; [Tamara Mironova](#) as Ballerina.

February 23 (19:00)

Daria Khokhlova as Ballerina.

Cast alterations

Artifact Suite

February 22 Erick Swolkin replaced Semyon Chudin.

Petrushka

February 23 (19:00) and 24 Denis Savin replaced Artem Ovcharenko in the title role.

Stabat Mater

February 24 [Ekaterina Ferzba](#) replaced Tatiana Koninskaya in the soprano part, Maria Patrusheva replaced Victoria Preobrazhenskaya in the mezzo soprano part.

Schedule alterations

February 27 (instead of the ballet Carmen) and February 28 (instead of The Swan Lake) there were two performances of Nureyev.

Birthdays

February 13 — famous Russian singer (bass) Fyodor Chaliapin (1873–1938)



Fyodor Chaliapin (1873–1938)

February 13 — Kristina Karasyova, soloist of the Bolshoi ballet.

February 13 — Jacopo Tissi, leading soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet.

February 13 — Joyce DiDonato, opera singer, lyric-coloratura mezzo soprano, one of the most sought after opera singers — 50th birthday.

February 14 — composer Alexander Dargomyzhsky (1813–1869)

February 15 — stage designer, multiple winner of the Golden Mask award Zinovy Margolin

February 15 — ballet-master, Merited Artist of Russia, Sergei Vikharev (1962–2017). At the Bolshoi he staged



Kristina Karasyova as Mercedes in Don Quixote.
Photo by Damir Yusupov

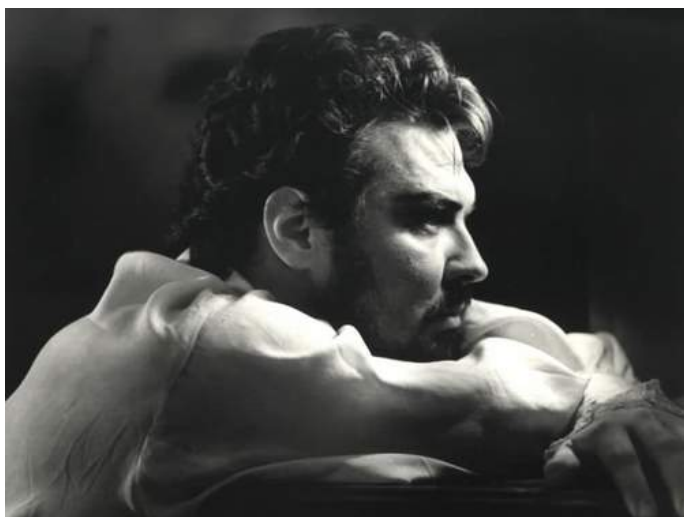
a revival of the famous Fokin's production of *Petrushka* (2010), completed the revival of the ballet *Coppelia* (2009)

February 16 — Roman Simachev, artist of the Bolshoi Ballet.

February 18 — Semyon Chudin, principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet.

February 18 — Oksana Gorchakovskaya, opera singer, soloist of the Bolshoi Opera since 1998 till February 2019.

February 18 — Anatoly Iksanov, CEO of The Intergovernmental Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation of CIS, Director General of the Bolshoi (2000–2013)



Vladimir Atlantov as Cavaradossi in Tosca.
Photo from the Bolshoi Theatre Museum

February 19 — a prominent opera singer of the 2nd half of the 20th century, tenor of the Bolshoi in 1960-80s, National Artist of the USSR [Vladimir Atlantov](#) — legend-

ary Jose, Hermann, Cavaradossi and Otello praised by the audience at La Scala, Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden, Vienna Staatsoper, Opera de Paris, Teatro Colon and many other theatres of Europe, Asia and both Americas.

February 19 — the Bolshoi ballet soloist (working under contract), Merited Artist of Russia Denis Medvedev

February 19 — composer, pianist, tutor, National Artist of Russia Alexander Tchaikovsky. Opera *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Tchaikovsky (2009, based on the novel by Alexander Solzhenitsyn) at the Chamber Stage of the Bolshoi.

February 20 — the Bolshoi Ballet soloist (working under contract), Merited Artist of Russia Andrei Bolotin.

February 21 — Karim Abdullin, soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet.

February 22 — Vsevolod Nemolyaev, the ballet company cast director, more than 60 years at the Bolshoi (since 1956). Former ballet dancer, unforgettable Sancho Pansa and Russian dance performer, Nemolyaev spoke about his life at the Bolshoi in an [interview for the Green Salon](#) (2016)

February 22 — Boris Khokhlov (1932–2000), ballet dancer, soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet in 1951–1972.

February 24 — John Neumeier, choreographer, director of Hamburg Ballet — the 80th anniversary of his birth.



On February 24 choreographer [John Neumeier](#) celebrated his 80th birthday

February 24 — John Daszak, the Bolshoi Opera guest soloist

February 25 — world famous opera tenor Enrico Caruso (1873–1921)

February 25 — Elizaveta Suritz, ballet expert, critic and dance historian, author of many books and studies including *The Ballet of Moscow Bolshoi Theatre in the Second Half of the 20th Century*, Merited Artist of Russia — the 96th birthday.

February 26 — Alla Shelest (1919–1998), an outstanding ballerina of the 20th century, tutor, soloist of Kirov Ballet in 1937–1963 — 100th anniversary of her birth.

February 26 — Alexandra Durseneva, the Bolshoi Opera soloist, Merited Artist of Russia — the 55th birthday

February 27 — Denis Savin, leading soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet, Merited Artist of Russia

February 29 — Ivan Petrov, real surname Krause (1920–2003), opera bass, mentor, National Artist of the USSR. He performed at the Bolshoi from 1943 till 1970.

March 1 — composer Frederick Chopin (1810–1849)

March 1 — artist, head of the Bolshoi Costume Department Elena Zaitseva

March 2 — Robert Lloyd, guest soloist of the Bolshoi

March 2 — Irina Bogachyova, opera singer (mezzo soprano), National Artist of the USSR — 80th birthday



Anna Aglatova



Irina Bogachyova receiving the Golden Mask award for "Outstanding contribution to development of theatre art" (2017)

March 3 — Svetlana Shilova, the Bolshoi Opera soloist

March 3 — Yulia Mazurova, the Bolshoi Opera soloist

March 4 — Anna Aglatova, the Bolshoi Opera soloist

March 4 — Yuri Simonov, conductor, artistic director of the Academic Symphonic Orchestra of Moscow Philharmonic, chief conductor of the Bolshoi in 1970–1985

March 5 — Kasyan Golejzovski, ballet dancer, choreographer (1892–1970)

March 6 — Nadezhda Obukhova, opera singer, National Artist of the USSR (1886–1961)



Nadezhda Obukhova as Lyubasha in *The Tsar's Bride* by Rimsky-Korsakov. 1933

March 9 — Maria Allash, ballerina of the Bolshoi (working under contract), National Artist of Russia

March 9 — Tamara Karsavina (1885–1978), ballerina, danced at Mariinsky Theatre (1904–1918), since 1909 worked with Diaghilev's Ballets Russes. Performed together with Vaslav Nijinsky.



Tamara Karsavina and Vaslav Nijinsky
in ballet *Le Spectre de la Rose*

March 11 — great choreographer Marius Petipa (1818-1910)

March 12 — Artemy Belyakov, leading soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet

March 12 — Daria Khokhlova, first soloist of the Bolshoi Ballet

March 12 — Alexei Bogorad, conductor of the Bolshoi

March 12 — Vaslav Nijinsky (1889–1950), an outstanding dancer, choreographer, dance innovator

March 13 — Makvala Kasrashvili, Bolshoi opera soloist, National Artist of the USSR, assistant of the Bolshoi chief conductor and music director



Makvala Kasrashvili as Countess Rosina
in *Le Nozze di Figaro* by Mozart

March 14 — Mikhail Lobukhin, principal dancer of the Bolshoi ballet

March 15 — Boris Messerer, theatre artist, artist, painter, set designer, National Artist of Russia — 85th birthday. Among his most famous works — *The Firebird*, *Petrushka*, *Egypt Nights*, *Chopiniana*, *Armida's Pavilion*, *Carmen* at the Bolshoi.