



Newsletter

On June 16 in Moscow another layer of COVID restrictions was removed: libraries, museums, summer terraces of cafés and restaurants are now able to re-open.

The Bolshoi ticket offices are open but working via online appointment.

The Bolshoi Theatre gradually resumes its work — there are no rehearsals yet: all on-stage performance groups are on vacation from June 1, but workers from certain departments, shops and creative teams may come to work, as the occasion requires, at the theatre building while observing all compulsory rules.

All workers must pass medical tests, body temperature is measured at the entrance, all rooms are disinfected regularly, masks and gloves must be worn.

Generally, the work of personnel is organised according to the General Director's order On The Work of The Theatre Without Audience in a way to minimise contacts between the employees.

The Bolshoi Ballet members keep up active training at home. Ballet-Masters National Artists of Russia [Nadezhda Grachyova](#), [Nina Semizorova](#), [Alexander Vetrov](#), Merited Artist of Russia [Victor Barykin](#) give master-classes on Zoom, Merited Artist of Russia [Gennadi Yanin](#) gives regular classes.

During the self-isolation period the Bolshoi has presented a huge amount of screenings of its performances and live programmes.

> 9.5 million views in social media

The 1st place (#1) in YouTube trends in Russia

The 3rd place (#3) in YouTube trends in Hong Kong

The 5th place (#5) in YouTube trends in Canada

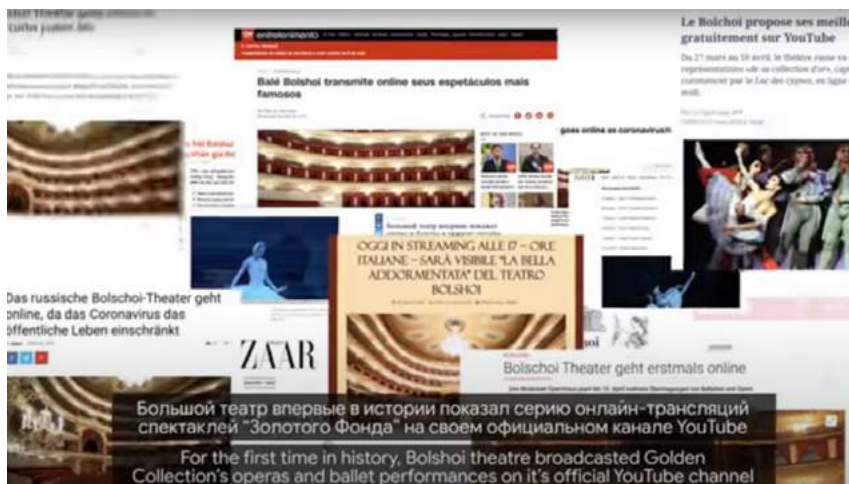
>1,993,295 hours of viewing (equals 227.5 years)

>339,668 reposts

> 82,000 viewers simultaneously (The Nutcracker)

> 108,072 comments

The Bolshoi would have to work for 16 years to show its performances to this number of spectators in regular mode.



youtube.com/bolshoi

[The Bolshoi Online in Figures on YouTube](#)

[The Bolshoi Online in Figures is available on YouTube](#)

"A little more than two months ago we met for the first time on the Bolshoi YouTube channel. Thank you for staying with us, for your interest to our productions, for your love of theatre in these difficult times.

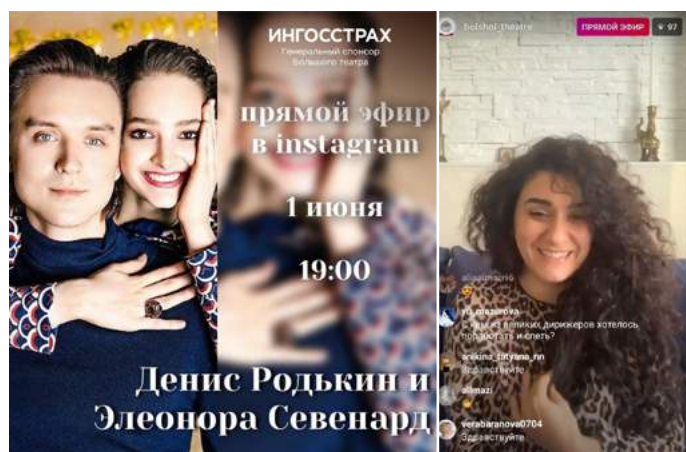
During the whole project period the Bolshoi productions were shown on YouTube more than 140 million times!

Thank you for each view and comment, we are also grateful to the projects partners — companies Pathé Live, Mezzo, Bel Air Media and Google — it would be impossible without them.

From June 1 the theatre is going on vacation, yet we promise to please you with interesting meetings on our social media through the whole summer.

See you at the Bolshoi!"

Throughout the whole month the Bolshoi of Russia continued to communicate with its audience via the series of online programmes. The Bolshoi Opera and Ballet company members held an online dialogue on the theatre [Instagram page](#) with the followers within the project supported by the Bolshoi's general sponsor — Ingosstrakh company.



On June 1, principal dancer Denis Rodkin and soloist Eleonora Sevenard — on the Bolshoi [Instagram](#). The Bolshoi Opera soloist soprano Anna Aglatova held a dialogue with the audience on [Instagram](#) on May 28

On June 1 principal dancer Denis Rodkin and soloist Eleonora Sevenard were online on [Instagram](#).

On May 28 there was an online programme with the Bolshoi Opera soloist soprano [Anna Aglatova](#).

May 25, Bolshoi Ballet leading soloist Igor Tsvirko and first soloist Margarita Shrayner held an [online programme](#).

May 21 — Bolshoi Opera soloist, National Artist of Azerbaijan [Elchin Azizov](#).



Bolshoi Ballet leading soloist Igor Tsvirko and first soloist [Margarita Shrayner](#) held an [online programme](#) on Instagram on May 25. Bolshoi Opera soloist since 2008 baritone [Elchin Azizov](#) was online on [Instagram](#) on May 21

The Bolshoi Theatre and ABBYY finalised results of the crowd-sourcing international project Open Bolshoi History ([openbolshoi.ru](#).)

ABBYY's intellectual technologies and over 7,800 project participants from 60 countries helped to extract, digitise and organise data based on 48,000 posters, 120,000 brochures and 100,000 photos of the thea-

tre museum collection, which has been accumulated over a period of 200 years. Valuable data of over 28,000 operas, 18,000 ballets and 5,000 concerts, including Feodor Chaliapin, Leonid Sobinov, Maya Plisetskaya and others of the brightest stars who ever performed on the Bolshoi's stage, are now in one electronic database. After due diligence, digitised historical documents are published in a special search section online archive. [bolshoi.ru](#). More information and interesting facts from volunteer project are available here [archive.bolshoi.ru](#).

This is the first project of such a large scale carried out by Russian musical theatres and museums.



“A great work was done which would be hardly possible to perform in such a limited time without the latest technologies developed by ABBYY company and without the human touch — without the love of thousands of volunteers from different countries for the Bolshoi,” the Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin notes. “These summer days, when the world is as if it is frozen and the Bolshoi has not been able to performance for several months already, I am particularly pleased to thank our partners - ABBYY company and our loyal spectators who have spent three years carrying out this unique project of the digitalisation of the Bolshoi archives. Thousands of photos, posters, daily schedules of our performances will become available in the near future not only for experts and theatre historians who come to work at the museum but for a wider audience.”

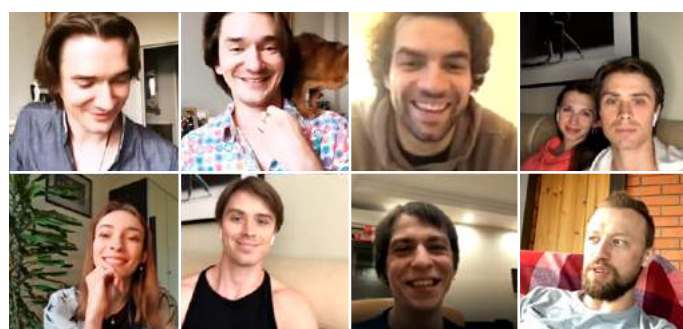
“ABBYY creates artificial intellect technologies which help to transform odd data into useful information. We especially appreciate projects where a company not only solves people's daily problems but also helps them to widen their horizons, save their country's culture and history, get inspiration and new ideas for work and life. There are few projects like Open Bolshoi History in the world. Yet I am sure that with development of natural language processing technologies we will become able to carry out more and more complicated and large-scale tasks in different countries around the world,” ABBYY Russia director general Dmitri Shukshin comments.



the theatre and its audience. For example, the project members, studying booklets, discovered some unusual productions such as an opera by Empress Catherine the Great, a musical comedy translated by the poet Nikolai Nekrasov, experimental ballets of 1930s. The booklets included not only the cast but also advertisement and even notifications of lost items that had been left behind.

Details and interesting facts about the volunteer project Open Bolshoi History are available via the link openbolshoi.ru.

In days of mandated isolation the Bolshoi artists continued to actively communicate.



With Olga Smirnova, June 1 — [part 1](#); [part 2](#).
A meeting with Artem Ovcharenko on May 29 — three days before the Bolshoi Ballet principal dancer became a happy father for the second time: [part 1](#), [part 2](#).
“The most interesting talk with a little of everything” with Denis Savin on [Instagram](#) of Igor Tsvirko.
Artem Ovcharenko and Anna Tikhomirova meet Denis Matvienko in a [live programme](#)

Principal dancer [Vladislav Lantratov](#) held a series of two-hour meetings with his partners and friends.

The “debut” live programme by Vladislav Lantratov with Ekaterina Krysanova — [part 1](#), [part 2](#).



“[Speaking of vocal technique and artistic interpretation](#)”

by the head of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Program
Dmitry Vdovin, May 26

In course of the project Open Bolshoi History the volunteers helped to gather interesting statistics on the history of the main theatre of the country. Thus, in the 19th century the opera *Life of the Tsar* was staged about 450 times. In the 20th century, the opera *Eugene Onegin* remained one of the most popular performances of the theatre for more than 60 years. Unmatched Maya Plisetskaya appeared as Odette and Odile in *The Swan Lake* 175 times, and the famous tenor Ippolitov-Ivanov sang the part of Lensky no less than 86 times. There were other findings also connected to the life of

The head of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Program [Dmitry Vdovin](#) took online part in the Elena Obraztsova. International Creative School of VocalArts. The school is held regularly in Moscow and St Petersburg since 2005. Online for the 1st time in 2020.

On May 25 Dmitry Vdovin talked to the director and multiple winner of Russian and international prizes [Dmitri Tcherniakov](#), — recorded conversation [Director and Singer in Opera](#).

Screenings are available live and recorded on the Foundation [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#).

[The 7-day live programmes](#) of the school gained more than 640 thousand views.



ClassicalMusicNews.Ru publisher, music producer of the projects The Nutcracker-Quarantine and Mascagni's Intermezzo started by the Bolshoi Orchestra during the quarantine, cellist Boris Lifanovsky speaks about his work on the music and on the projects in general in a [YouTube video](#)



"Talking to Sergei Filin" on Nina Ananiashvili's YouTube channel — [part 1](#); [part 2](#)



A talk with dancer Andrei Uvarov on Nina Ananiashvili's YouTube channel — [Nina Ananiashvili Official](#)



A talk with [Maria Alexandrova](#) on Nina Ananiashvili's YouTube channel. — Earlier there was a "broadcast" with [Misty Copeland](#) — the first afro dancer for American Ballet Theatre, and Irina Kolpakova



["A Talk with Irina Kolpakova"](#) on Nina Ananiashvili's YouTube channel: "Irina Kolpakova — the world ballet legend, personification of the Mariinsky clarity of dancing, iconic Aurora and Raymonda, a ballerina and a tutor who managed to push already accomplished artists to a new level."

The Bolshoi Opera guest soloist [Yusif Eyvazov](#) held many meetings including those with Gergiev, Vengerov, Abdrazakov within his online project Talking to Interesting People. On June 11 there was an hour talk with the head of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Program Dmitry Vdovin.



[The first](#) and [the second](#) meetings of Nikolai Tsiskaridze with the reporter and editor of national tabloids Alyona Dloetskaya are available on YouTube.

On June 9 the Bolshoi Ballet prima Anna Nikulina gave an interview to the project Dancehelp.ru on [Facebook](#).



Anna Nikulina answered questions in a live programme on Dancehelp.ru on [Facebook](#)



Svetlana Zakharova gets birthday greetings from [Denis Rodkin](#), [Jacopo Tissi](#), [Artemy Belyakov](#), [Ana Turazashvili](#), [Yulia Grebenshikova](#), [Vadim Repin](#) and many others



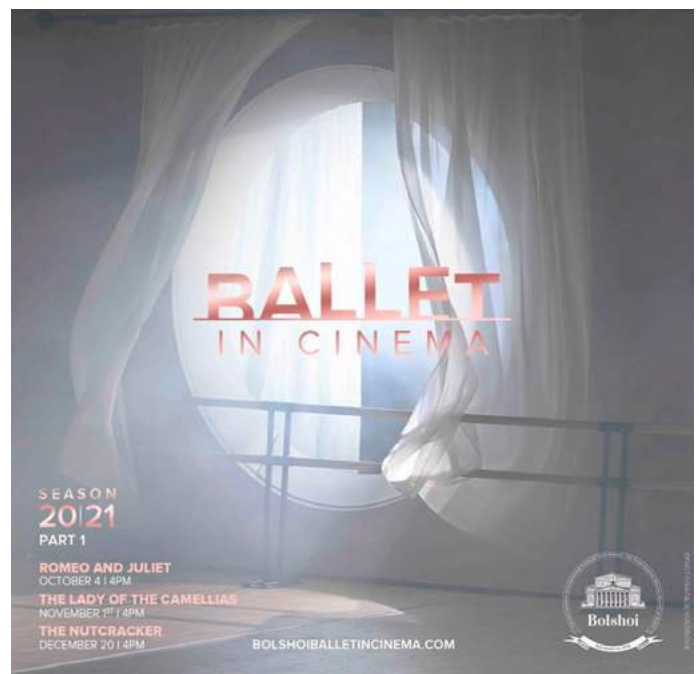
Kristina Kretova shares her memories on [Instagram](#), publishing Five Chapters about Ballet: "I Want to Share a Small Part of My Life!"

Colleagues, stage partners, friends and fans congratulated the Bolshoi Ballet prima Svetlana Zakharova on her birthday June 10. They add their photos with the ballerina to the words of admiration and gratitude in their publications of social media.

The project Bolshoi in Cinema resumes its screenings in the season 2020/21 in cinemas all over the world:
October 4 — *Romeo and Juliet* (recorded performance of January 21, 2018)

November 1 — *Lady of the Camellias* (recorded performance of December 6, 2015)

December 20 — *The Nutcracker* (recorded performance of December 23, 2018)



Bolshoi in Cinema 2020/21 will resume its screenings in cinemas all over the world. Photo by Natalia Voronova

The Bolshoi's legendary production [The Queen of Spades](#) by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Boris Pokrovsky's version staged by Leonid Baraton with Elena Obraztsova, Ta-

mara Milashkina and Vladimir Atlantov (recording of 1983) — shown on Russia-K within the programme the Bolshoi Legendary Productions on June 7 to commemorate Alexander Pushkin's 221st birthday.

Conductor — Yuri Simonov

Main parts by — Elena Obraztsova, Tamara Milashkina and Vladimir Atlantov.



The Bolshoi Ballet prima, National Artist of Russia [Ekaterina Shipulina](#) presented A Letter to Rudy (Alla Osipenko's message to Rudolf Nureyev) — in an online concert Optimistic Performances. Live Air which took place within the [20th Open Art Festival Chereshnev Les The First Channel](#) screened the event.

Bolshoi Opera guest soloist, bass [Ildar Abdrazakov](#) also took part in the concert which has changed its mode and was for the first time held online due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

The Open Art Festival Chereshnev Les was established in 2001 and combines various kinds of art — presents new names and world stars, experimental projects and new interpretations of classics.

The event covered by:

[TASS](#)

[Russia-K TV channel](#)

[RIA Novosti](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

and other media.

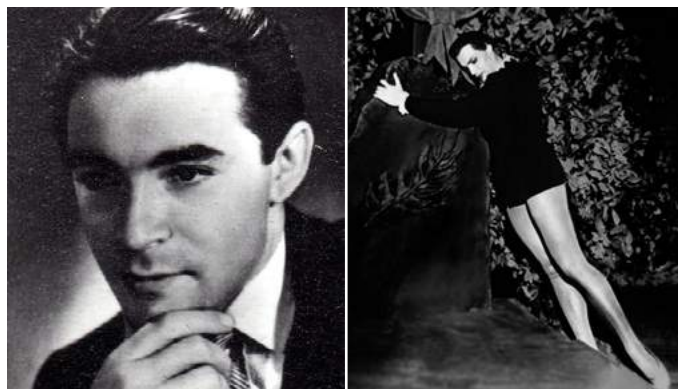


Ekaterina Shipulina as the Diva in the ballet Nureyev.
Photo by Sasha Gusov /Instagram

A fragment from [Nureyev](#) (Composer — Ilya Demutsky; choreographer — Yuri Possokhov; libretto, director and designer — Kirill Serebrennikov) was shown during the night of May 31 – June 1 outside the Bolshoi Historic Stage in an unusual setting — in the halls of Pushkin Fine Arts Museum.

[Escola do Teatro Bolshoi no Brasil](#) which marked its 20th anniversary in March, right before the COVID pandemic, launched online classes on May 6 and resumes them in June.

Sad news



People's artist of the USSR Nikolai Borisovich Fadeychev (January 27, 1933 — June 23, 2020). In his role of the ballet Giselle. Photo: Bolshoi Museum

Nikolay Fadeychev one of the greatest dancers, beloved partner of Ulanova and Plisetskaya, mentor of many Bolshoi principals dancers — including his own son, Aleksei Fadeychev as well as Tsiskaridze, Uvarov, Filin, Ovcharenko, Skvortsov — passes away at the age of 87.



In his role of the ballet Giselle (with Galina Ulanova)

Press analysis:

Russian mass media

The Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin gave an interview to [Govorit Moskva](#) radio station and said that “it will take artists and musicians some time to get fit again.”

“The theatre is officially on vacation from June 1 and our vacation makes 56 days. Due to the fact that the theatre will not have been working for about five months by that time, all artists will need to get back into professional shape. It will take about two to three weeks with ballet dancers since it requires quite serious work. They still keep fit, but it should be done in class, and they cannot keep it to that level at home. Musicians should do the same.

Once we are back from vacation, we will need about three weeks to come round. After that we should find out how to treat our audience, how they will attend the performances, what restrictive measures should be taken. And when we get all this clear, then we will say if we are able to start or not.”

The Bolshoi Theatre of Russia will not resume rehearsals before July 26 since all its workers are on vacation. Reported by the city news agency [Moskva](#).

[Moskva. Centr](#)
[Karetny Ryad newspaper](#)
and other city media.

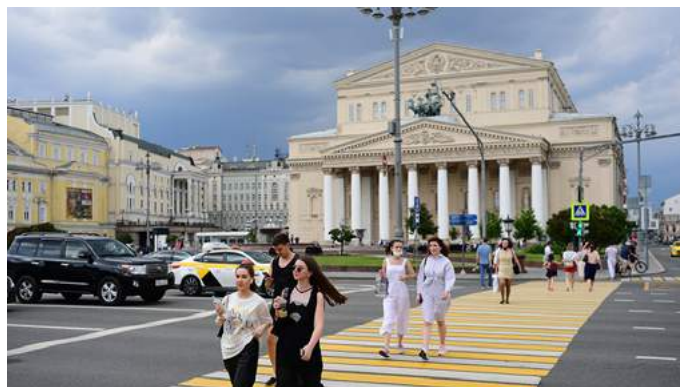
The RF Ministry of Culture will offer Rospotrebnadzor to set the weekly rehearsal schedule for artists and the formation of special routes for moving around inside the building in their theatre operating recommendations, — [TASS](#) reports referring to information from the Ministry of Culture

“On Resumption of Rehearsals.

According to a decree by Moscow mayor, theatres were allowed to resume rehearsals starting from June 9. The roadmap designed by the Ministry of Culture says that reopening of theatres is planned for September. As the Bolshoi director General Vladimir Urin noted at the meeting, it is too early to decide seating options at the moment. The head of Rospotrebnadzor added that no correct prognosis can be made earlier than two 28 day periods before the season starts.”

Since June 9 theatre and circus companies can hold rehearsals in the capital. Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyannin said on June 8 on [Rossia24 TV channel](#).

Moscow theatres have started start returning to their usual pre-quarantine life — since June 9 rehearsals without spectators are allowed, media report. “However much we all wanted to resume the season sooner, we will have to observe Rospotrebnadzor requirements strictly and act with ‘maximal correctness’.” The head of the Moscow Culture department Alexander Kibovsky talked about this to directors of the capital’s theatres,” [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) gives details. — “Moscow theatres have been made aware of the self-isolation mode exiting rules.”



The [RG](#) article includes a photo of the Bolshoi and Theatre Square

“The Bolshoi Theatre hopes to start its season in September,” [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) reported on 15 June:

“The Bolshoi director General Director Vladimir Urin hopes that his company will be able to open the season in September. Still he is not ready to discuss safe seating patterns assuming that the situation will allow full house performances. Nevertheless they should observe all Rospotrebnadzor regulations, Urin noted.”



The Bolshoi Theatre and ABBYY finalised results of a crowd-sourcing international project Open Bolshoi History. 927 performances and 5650 personal photos have been scanned

Russian media keep discovering details of the large-scale joint project [Open Bolshoi History](#) by the Bolshoi and ABBYY.

The museum workers will analyse this bulk data and publish it on the theatre digital archive [website](#).

[RIA Novosti](#)

[CNews](#)

[VestiFM](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Gazeta Kultura](#)

[Pravda](#)

“How Ivan Susanin was made into a collective farm worker and why a real tractor appeared on the Bolshoi stage: One can find many curious facts in the theatre booklets and posters,” — an article by [Komsomolskaya Pravda](#).

“...They have digitised and systematised information from 48,000 posters, 120,000 booklets and 100,000 photos from the Bolshoi Theatre Museum collection using AI technology by ABBYY company. This includes data about more than 28,000 operas, 18,000 ballets and 5,800 concerts.

/.../ In all times, at the Bolshoi there were unusual productions with an interesting history, besides classics. For example, there was an opera Fedul with Children completely unknown to the modern audience. Libretto by the Empress Catherine the Great. /.../

There were other unusual productions, too, including in the 20th century: a ballet Satanilla or Love and Hell, a fantasy tale Saxifrage, a comedy Uncle's Frock and Auntie's Robe, ballets A Footballer, A Flat (with main roles of a vacuum cleaner, a bidet, an armchair, a door and a stove) and Jewels (with precious stones acting the parts), a ballet Hashish Amenities, and musical comedy A Magical Cock-a-doodle-doo or Granny's Pullet.”

Media continue to cover the already finished online screenings of the Bolshoi — “an absolutely beautiful series” of shows ([Delovoi Peterburg](#)).

Covid fan tutte: Theatres Looking For Their Place After The Quarantine — an article by Alexei Lepork where he honours the screenings presenter for the “soundness” of the decision making of the theatre administration.

The Spanish online specialised dance news publication [Danza Ballet](#) announces future screenings of Bolshoi in Cinema: “Due to the current global health crisis, the first part of the season will include three recorded ballets from Moscow. The second part of the season will be announced this fall, with the great hope that we will be able to offer live broadcasts from the Bolshoi stage to the public from January 2021.” The article includes the Bolshoi in Cinema poster for 20/21 season.

[The First Channel](#) congratulated the Bolshoi Ballet prima Svetlana Zakharova on her birthday. The ballerina is the guest of the morning which was live on air on June 10.



Svetlana Zakharova at the First Channel studio on her birthday June 10. Morning programme.

In her exclusive interview with [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) Svetlana Zakharova spoke about Zoom classes, rehearsals with colleagues all over the world on social media and her plans for the autumn. The talk was held by Leila Guchmazova.

“When will the classes for the Bolshoi dancers resume?”

Svetlana Zakharova: “There is a hope that we will start training in July and the theatre will open in September, but not everything depends from the theatre. We arranged Zoom classes to keep more or less fit. The original initiators were our remarkable dancer and tutor Gennadi Yanin and concert master Elena Prazdnikova: he gives the class and she catches up with accompaniment. Before that we spent a month keeping fit as much as we could. A few weeks ago the Bolshoi got involved, too: they distributed linoleum, asked tutors to get a sense of Zoom. And artists has already flocked. /.../”

“You have special relationships with many theatres of the world, don't you?”

Svetlana Zakharova: “Yes, but there are only two of them I could never reject — the Bolshoi and La Scala. These theatres are near and dear to me, I owe them much and I love them. I became l'etoile of La Scala even before Makhar Vaziev, then the head of Mariinsky and now the Bolshoi Ballet director, had taken the lead there, and I am glad that he supported me. Now La Scala does not have so many ballet performances, but, for example, Manon Lescaut is staged by Felix Korobov, and that is also a support. /.../”

About exiting the quarantine, concerts without audiences and home rehearsals — Svetlana Zakharova speaks in her interview with [Izvestia](#). “The Bolshoi Ballet prima Svetlana Zakharova can afford chocolate and cakes every day, she hopes for an Italian tour this summer and is going to discover the tourist attractions of our country.”

“Now you are on 56 days of vacation. Has the administration informed you about when you can return to the theatre? When will the season start?”

“The Bolshoi performances will restart in the autumn. And rehearsals will begin in the end of July, I hope, even earlier. Thank God, at the Bolshoi it was never banned to have classes in the studios in summer. There are many theatres in Europe where no artist can attend a ballet class during their vacation. My concerts in Italy in the end of July and in August are not cancelled yet. Promoters still hope they will take place. And I hope, too, while it is highly improbable. /.../”

[MIR24](#) reports: Rehearsals Under New Conditions: Moscow Theatres Return To the Stage. The Bolshoi Theatre, Vakhtangov Theatre, Taganka Theatre will meet in the second half of the summer. They haven't waited until the end of the self-isolation mode and have finished theatre season before hand. Recommendations on the opening of theatres with spectators are still being discussed with Rospotrebnadzor.”

[Izvestia](#)



June 11 – 85 years since the birth of ballerina
Nina Timofeeva

[Kultura channel website](#) publishes an article time to coincide with the anniversary of the 85th birthday of ballerina Nina Timofeeva. “National Artist of the USSR, the Muse of Yuri Grigorovich, Nina Timofeeva was born in Leningrad on June 11, 1935. Her mother Frida Fyodorovna was a concert master at the Mariinsky (then Kirov) Opera Ballet. During WW2 the theatre was evacuated to Perm and friends advised that 6-year-old Nina should play a saltimbanco in The Magic Flute — for this their family would get an additional bread ticket. That was

how young Nina first entered the realm of theatre and ballet.”

In the evening programme of [Vesti](#) on June 9 on Rossia-1 TV channel there was a report about artists and musicians during the pandemic. The Bolshoi Ballet principal dancer Artem Ovcharenko spends hours on master classes he gives directly from home.

“Now everything happens in my head”: Alexei Ratmansky speaks about discrimination, barn locks and impossibility of designing ballets in the time of pandemic — an interview with Tatiana Kuznetsova of [Kommersant](#):

“/.../ These are not pogroms [in New York] but demonstrations, protests. /.../ Protesters' demands are very just. Sadly, discrimination and inequality and police cruelty to Afro-Americans are still there. /.../”

“Well, let's talk about ballet. What are ABT's prospects?”

“It seems like we will not have the autumn season — as well as Met. If all goes well we, too, will start working only in 2021. Such sad news /.../”

“Will the spring [ABT] season 2021 be there for sure?”

“I have no answer for this question. Since I am only a choreographer and not part of the management some things are discussed without me and they surely have plans for every occasion. They are trying to leave nothing to chance but who knows how the things will go on. /.../”

“Are the artists paid now?”

“Yes, we have received a grant from the city if I am not mistaken. There are old connections, sponsors, everybody is trying to support us, everybody loves ABT. Small, experimental companies are in trouble. I am afraid they will fall apart. /.../”

“Let's return to the prospects. Deputy Head of the Mariinsky Ballet Yuri Fateev mentioned in an interview that you will stage La Fille du Pharaon in St Petersburg. Our theatres are said to be open in the autumn.”

“I am not ready yet to answer questions about La Fille du Pharaon, negotiations are under way still nothing is clear yet. I don't even know why Yuri Fateev has announced it somewhere. Yet if he has then it's OK. /.../”

“Is that true that the archives of Mariinsky Theatre are absolutely closed? And that they contain real treasures?”

“There is no access. The archives are locked. I tried to access these archives of Mariinsky more than once — and was rejected. And of course, La Fille du Pharaon will be possible only in case I am able to work with the archive materials. /.../”

“You are not afraid that St Petersburg academicism boosters will eat you together with La Fille du Pharaon like they have eaten Sergei Vikharev with his Sleeping Beauty, are you?”

“I am not, I was eaten so many times already... Yet, of course, it was very hard for poor Vikharev. But it seems to me that now, 20 years after that Beauty everybody is in a slightly different mood.



Alexei Ratmansky's interview with [Kommersant](#).
Photo by Yuri Martianov

“The Bolshoi soloists and Russian State Academic Capella have postponed their tour to Kaliningrad region,” — [Russki Zapad](#) reports referring to Kaliningrad Philharmonic; “A joint concert of two academic companies scheduled for June 6 in Kaliningrad will take place in the end of the summer: arias from Eugene Onegin are scheduled to be performed at the Philharmonic on August 30.”

The Bolshoi marks Mikhail Glinka's birthday, June 1, with his two operas A Life for the Tsar and Ruslan and Lyudmila online publication [Polit.ru](#) reports.



Composer Mikhail Glinka

Glinka is a patriarch of Russian classical music. He is the author of operas A Life for the Tsar (Ivan Susanin, 1836) and Ruslan and Lyudmila (1842) that launched two



Albina Shagirmuratova (Glinka, Ruslan and Lyudmila) of Lyudmila from the Bolshoi Opera production (director — Dmitri Tcherniakov, conductor — Vladimir Yurovsky, 2011 — a fragment from Mezzo TV livestream) on [YouTube](#)

types of Russian opera — national musical drama and fairytale-opera, legend-opera. They laid the foundation of the Russian symphony. A classic of Russian romance Mikhail Glinka on [Kultura RF website](#).

The Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin spoke about theatre world's urgent problems at a round table organised by [Afisha Daily](#) together with Okko Theatre. “In the current epidemic situation theatre workers have nothing to do but watching the pandemic development and what's going on with their fellow professionals. Theatres will not open before September or October at best,” Urin thinks.

The second article by [Afisha Daily](#) quotes Vladimir Urin about the forced pause: “We plan everything we do for three years ahead, it is connected with the whole system of the world musical theatre, with people who sign contracts with the theatre, and these are not only production teams but artists as well. What is happening today is a catastrophe for musical theatre, especially for ballet. Because the pause has virtually broken the whole system While a singer can sit at a piano at home and keep fit, a dancer has no opportunity to stand at the barre every day. And we will need a huge amount of time to bring the company back to normal working condition. For us everything concerning web space, Internet and so on, is now an absolutely social thing.”

The Russian government has announced dates of opening theatres, museums and cinemas. The news reported by more than 50 media/

[Kultura channel](#)

[Kommersant](#)

[RBK](#)

[Vecherniyaya Moskva](#) and other media.

The meeting of the President Council for Culture and Art which was scheduled to March 25 in St Petersburg but was cancelled due to the quarantine will not happen before the autumn.

[TASS](#)

[Teatral](#)

[Dnevnik SPb](#)

and other sources report.

Maria Barakova. “I will do what I have to... Just because I know there are people behind me who trust in me, who love me, who I hold by the hand in my mind...” — [Musykalnye Sezony](#) publishes a vast interview with the young singer.



Maria Barakova. Photo by Kristina Kalinina

“... A Bolshoi YOP member since 2017. In November 2017 she debuted at the Bolshoi as Petrovna in The Tsar’s Bride by Rimsky-Korsakov. In 2019 — the 1st prize of the 26th Glinka International Vocal Competition (Kazan.) The 1st prize of the 16th Tchaikovsky International Competition (St Petersburg — Moscow.) /.../

“Did you sing at Novosibirsk Theatre?”

“Yes. My dream came true. On this stage I sang the audition for the Bolshoi Youth Opera Program on June 14, 2017. The first series took place at the Novosibirsk Opera Ballet main stage. I sang the aria of Morozova from The Oprichnik. The one I sang later at the final of Tchaikovsky Competition. It was a challenge for me to choose it for the competition. /.../

Lessons with Dmitry Vdovin are a different story. Perhaps, they think we come to him just to study vocals. In reality, his classes are a school of life for us. Anyhow during three years he has brought me up as a person, as an individual.” [See details via the link](#)

Media give special notice to the importance of measures that will allow elderly workers of cultural institutions come back to work. “We know that elderly people make the base of Russian theatre companies, we know the invaluable contribution of the elderly to the educational process in our remarkable art universities and children’s art schools. We know how many elderly people work at Russian museums, theatres and libraries. Russian culture is impossible without our maestros,” the RF Minister of Culture Olga Lyubimova said.

[Lenta.ru](#)

[Nezavisimaya Gazeta](#)

Lyudmila Krasnova tells a detailed story on NEWSmuz.com about the online work of Elena Obraztsova International School of Vocal Arts — the article Tcherniakov, Korchak And Vdovin Took Part In The School of Vocal Arts Of the Obraztsova Foundation.



Seven days of Elena Obraztsova International School of Vocal Arts (640 thousand views) — NEWSmuz.com publishes a detailed report.



Daria Khokhlova and Artemy Belyakov danced an adagio from Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker to congratulate social workers on their professional holiday June 8 (the online concert organisers — the RF Public Chamber, Russian Regions Cultural Forum, NCSC Civil Society and Social Communications; the project partners — ANCO Culture People) /[Youtube](#)

On Russia Day 12 violinists of the Bolshoi performed in an online charity concert in Red Square, [TV-Briks reports](#). The venue of their performance was one of the most beautiful concert halls in the country, so called Grand Anteroom of the Russian National Treasury — State History Museum. The programme included works by Russian classical composers Shostakovich, Tchaikovsky, Khachaturyan and Glazunov for the audiences on all continents on the international platform [classic-at-home.com](#).

Press analysis: international mass media

The German broadcaster [Deutsche Welle](#) rebroadcasts in English the video report by Juri Rescheto about the Bolshoi and its dancers in lockdown. The report in English is based on an interview Vladimir Urin gave earlier to Deutsche Welle in Russian. The Bolshoi General Director speaks about the difficulties the theatre is facing due to the COVID epidemic. The report includes an interview with Bolshoi Ballet leading soloist Maria Vinogradova and Bolshoi Ballet guest soloist, first soloist of Mikhailovsky Theatre Ivan Vasiliev.



[Deutsche Welle](#) reports the early termination of the Bolshoi 244 season



[Deutsche Welle](#) prepared a report in English about the Bolshoi Theatre and its artists on lockdown

French international news agency Agence France Presse quotes the opinion of the Bolshoi head Vladimir Urin concerning online screenings of theatre productions he expressed in the beginning of so called measures to prevent the COVID pandemic (see his interview with Tatiana Kuznetsova: “The epidemic will change the relationship between theatre and audience dramatically”: The Bolshoi General Director on Damage and Challenges // [Kommersant](#))

[AFP Agence France Presse](#) (REPUBLICATION France 24) reports on streaming of theatre productions during the COVID crisis asking if it is good or bad. ““Opera at home”, “theatre and sofa”: in times of coronavirus, theatres have given unprecedented access to their productions thanks to streaming, while hoping that it will only be a parenthesis. But it may be long. Theatres in France and elsewhere in Europe are beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel with reopening dates, but face the great challenge of bringing spectators while respecting social distancing.” The article mentions, ““There is a risk ... those who abuse this medium lose the public,” Vladimir Urin, director of the famous Bolshoi Theatre, which has just ended its recordings (9.5 million views,) assured the reporter of Kommersant Daily.”

The report also quotes opinions of Peter Gelb, Valery Gergiev, Tamara Rojo, Benjamin Millepied, Manuel Brug and other heads of theatre institutions and musical theatre professionals.

The local news publication The Berkshire Edge (USA) publishes an article by Emily Edelman who announces a talk by dance critic Marina Harss. “Virtual conversation to discuss history of the Bolshoi Ballet Marina Harss. Great Barrington — On Sunday, June 7, at 5:30 p.m., the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Centre will present via Zoom “Inside the Bolshoi Ballet,” a conversation with dance writer Marina Harss and Jacob’s Pillow director of preservation Norton Owen.”

The online local news publication [The Pilot](#) (Southern Pines North Carolina USA) announces “The Bolshoi Ballet has cancelled the remainder of the 2019-2020 season, including the last two performances scheduled at the Sunrise Theatre.” “The Sunrise has been a proud host of the Bolshoi for many years and is very saddened, but not surprised, by the news,” says Mary-Beth Poplyk, executive director of the theatre. “The cancellations of the Bolshoi Ballet and the Met Opera seasons have had damaging effects on the theatre’s financial situation.”

The online specialised opera news publication [Opera Wire](#) publishes an article by Francisco Salazar who reports “Anna Netrebko withdraws from Metropolitan

Opera's New Salome. According to an article by the Associated Press, the soprano withdrew from the opera scheduled for 2021-22 citing the role was not right for her. The production was first announced in 2017 as part of three co-productions with the Bolshoi Theatre and is set to be directed by Claus Guth. The other two productions were Aida and Lohengrin and all three productions were set to star Netrebko."

The Times (UK) newspaper publishes an article by playwright James Graham who says theatres are in danger and need to be rescued. "Theatre is not more special than any other industry that has been suffering from the impact of Covid-19. It's simply that it will be the worst-hit sector, because it cannot safely reopen under the social-distancing guidelines, and so it must wait longer than any other business to return; possibly for another six months and maybe more. With zero income, that's too long to survive without a short-term investment to bridge the shortfall. A consortium of theatre directors and figures from the culture sector, of which I am a part, estimate that, by Christmas, three-quarters of all theatres nationwide will be boarded up and won't come back. That's 1,000 companies employing close to 250,000 skilled people, the majority of whom are freelancers who might be forced to leave the profession as a result."

The English-language Brazilian newspaper **The Rio Times** publishes an article by Ricardo Wegrzynowski and a link to his **YouTube video**: "Because of the worldwide pandemic, the Bolshoi school, located in Joinville, Santa Catarina, in southern Brazil, has opened online classes that have been viewed by hundreds of thousands."



In a **video**, the best in the world, now with open classes online" (04'52") Laura Vasconcelos professional ballerina of the Bolshoi School in Joinville speaks about the online classes of the School / **The Rio Times**

"One of the most respected ballet schools in the world, the Bolshoi, with its only branch outside Rus-

sia in Brazil, has introduced online classes. Every year, thousands of candidates try to join the school. Now, the whole world can follow the classes, which were opened on **Instagram**."

The English language Arab Emirates news publication **The National (Arab Emirates)** announces "You can now stream the world's leading performing arts shows on-demand in the UAE. Marquee TV offers access to performances from the Royal Opera House, Bolshoi Ballet, Royal Shakespeare Company and more."

British media continue to mention the flower Ballet du Bolchoi named after the ballet company. The online publication **Yahoo UK Finance** (UK) publishes an article by Olivia Heath from an article in the UK magazine House Beautiful. "Gardeners' World presenter Rachel de Thame has picked out some gorgeous colourful plants to brighten up your garden this summer. During BBC's Chelsea Flower Show programme, Your Chelsea Garden, Rachel spoke from her Gloucestershire home." This includes "I also can't resist the delicate Iris 'Ballet du bolchoi', which was going to be announced at Chelsea by Cayeux. I used to be a ballet dancer and the shade reminds me exactly of tutus and ballet shoes."

Helga Rabl-Stadler, the president of Salzburg Festival, has had her position renewed till the end of the next year, **Platea Magazine** reports. **Orfei reports**

"This will allow her to accompany Markus Hinterhäuser, current artistic manager of the festival, to complete the programme of the centenary celebration. All the more so as a part of festival events were postponed to the next year due to the coronavirus epidemic."

Helga Rabl-Stadler (72) is one of the brightest and most influential music managers in the world — she has been at the helm of the Salzburg Festival for the past 25 years. Thanks to her determination and efforts the current season was not cancelled regardless all the difficulties and having been significantly changed — it will take place from August 1 to 30 in a reduced form."

The Metropolitan Opera website publishes on June 1 a message by the theatre general director Peter Gelb; **Kommersant** gives the essence of the message.

"The Metropolitan Opera will not be able to start its season before December 31."

"The New York theatre... Postponed the beginning of the season from the autumn to the end of 2020 due to the "ongoing crisis" caused by the coronavirus epidemic and its consequences. Supposedly, the season will officially open with a gala on December 31."

Premieres of Mozart's operas The Magic Flute (director — Simon McBurney) and Don Giovanni (director -

Ivo van Hove) scheduled for the autumn months will not take place in the 2020/21 season. Also, a new version of Verdi's Aida — the first co-production by Met Opera and the Bolshoi — will not happen."

The theatre [website](#) also publishes the list of cancelled performances and additional information on ticket options."



Peter Gelb's address on the [Met website](#), June 1

International media continue to report that Paris Opera director general Stephen Lissner has decided to leave his position before the end of his assignment.

Many publications refer to a vast interview one of the most influential persons in opera world has given to a [Le Monde](#) reporter Marie-Aude Roux ("Stephen Lissner: 'Paris National Opera is on its knees'") where he said that the Paris Opera will stay closed till July 15 and the next few months would be totally unpredictable without answers to many questions. "Not to mention that 80% of our artists are foreigners, 55% of whom live outside the Schengen area. This is why I proposed to advance the work initially planned for the two halls from July to October 2021 this summer. From an economic point of view, the impact will be very moderate." /.../

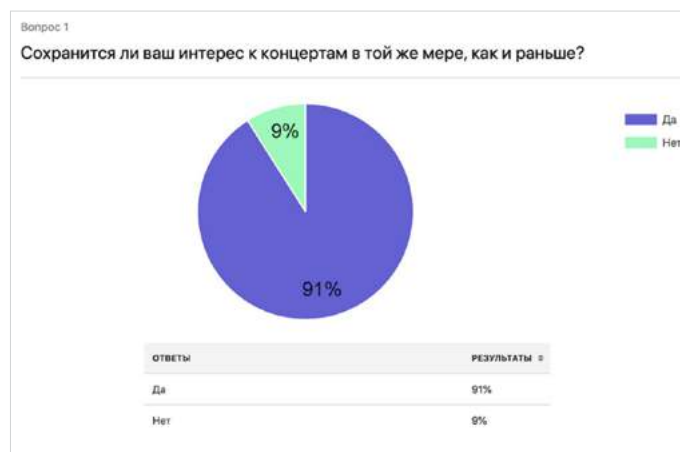
TASS: "After leaving the position of Paris Opera director general Stephen Lissner will take over the managing position of artistic director of the oldest European opera — San Carlo in Naples." (Paris Opera Director General Will Leave His Post Prematurely).

Orfei

Moskovsky Komsomolets: "Paris Opera Announce Its Closing: Director general Stephen Lissner: "The virus has put the theatre on its knees."

Briefly

The website [ClassicalMusicNews.Ru](#) hosted a poll in order to find out the audience's view on visiting live concerts after the coronavirus pandemic. Over two thou-



[ClassicalMusicNews.Ru](#) hosted a poll on the viewer's readiness to visit live concerts after the end of the coronavirus pandemic

sand people took part in the poll (2126 respondents). The organisers of the poll assumed that the results would be interesting to a wide range of audiences, from the common viewer to large concert organisations.

The main question is worded thus: "Is your interest in concerts maintained to the same degree as before?" Two options were given: "yes" and "no". The great majority of respondents (91%) have replied positively to the question.

For the first month of not only the world's gradual recovery from the quarantine, but also that of the world of music, channels of [Mezzo](#) have arranged a vast programme. For the whole of June Mezzo will be celebrating a jubilee — 180 years since the birth of Pyotr Tchaikovsky (they began on May 31 with the opera Eugene Onegin). From June 20 to June 21 the channels Mezzo and Mezzo live HD will be hosting a major celebration of Music Day. "The list of participants looks quite impressive for the most demanding music devotees: Anna Netrebko, Joyce Didonato, Olga Peretyatko, Josef Kalleya, Lan Lan, Marta Argerich, Daniil Trifonov, Evgeni Kissin, Grigori Sokolov, Janine Jansen, Yo-Yo Ma, Valery Gergiev, Simon Rattle, Daniel Barenboim, Bernard Haitink, Gustavo Dudamel, Riccardo Chailly."

Maestro Yuri Bashmet told [Moskovskiy Komsomolets](#) about how the pandemic will change the musical world and culture in general — "How will woodwind players play in masks?"

"All in all, how will the current situation in the world effect culture? Do you have any estimates?"

"I hope that the values which I have been close to me all my life will become important to all of us. Sincerity of the performance on the stage, the emotional back and forth between the artist and the audience. I'm sure that the excess 'froth' that always exists and always has

existed in the world of art will simmer down. And the audience will need and will value specifically genuine, deep art.//”

From June 4, 2020, the Vienna Opera has begun to sell tickets, reports [ClassicalMusicNews.Ru](#). All in all, 14 concerts are planned before the end of the season. The maximum amount of people in the hall will not exceed 100 persons. All concerts will be shown without any intermissions. The Vienna Opera’s website will offer a livestream.

“The entire summer with the Mariinsky: Valery Gerгиеv hopes to return the theatre to the audience in the near future”, — a detailed report was posted [Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#).

Neustart Kultur is a programme that has been announced by the government of Germany, aimed at supporting the cultural sector. “Germany: 1 billion euros to restart culture” — a report from [Muzikalnoye Obozrenie](#) “The aim of the programme can be summed up with this declaration, — “to restart cultural life, which has been paralysed by the coronavirus pandemic, and with that to create work places for artists and all workers of the cultural sphere.”

June 15 — on Edward Grieg’s birthday (1843 – 1907) the concert halls of Norway have opened to the public. [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) reported extensively on the event.

“This will be the first public concert in the entire duration of the past three months, a concert that will practically break the blockade surrounding the live concert life of Norway. On Edward Grieg’s birthday, from his native city Bergen, where the composer was born on June 15, 1843, and where he spent the last twenty years of his life, a programme will be streamed, comprised entirely of Grieg’s compositions.”

The concert will be streamed live on the [website](#) of the Bergen Philharmonic.

The Bergen Music Festival was hosted in the online format with the participation of Ove Andsnes from May 20 and until June 3. Compositions by Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Bartók, Widmann, Pärt could be heard. The recordings of the concert are available on [YouTube](#).

[Rossia-K](#): “On the birthday of Edward Grieg the concert halls of Norway will open again.”

The international music festival in Pärnu will be held in the format of full-scale live concerts with an audience in the hall. Its founder and organiser, the Estoni-

an maestro Paavo Järvi tells how public concerts will be arranged in the new circumstances, — an interview is published by [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#).

Republication: [ClassicalMusicNews.ru](#)

The vocal competition Operalia has been shifted to next year, — [Orpheus](#) reports. — “The competition was meant to be held in October in Israel; however, the organisers are wary of the second wave of coronavirus. There are also fears that foreigners may have problems with entering Israel.”

The competition Operalia was founded in 1993 and has been hosted yearly in different cities of the world. The contest has delivered success to singers such as Sonya Yoncheva, Lisette Oropesa, Aida Garifullina and others.”

On June 15 the leading opera platforms of Italy congratulated the esteemed director and stage designer [Pierre Luigi Pizzi](#) on his 90th birthday. (In the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia, 2013, he staged Bellini’s [Somnambula](#) and was the first guest of [the Bolshoi’s Green Salon](#).)

They have posted their congratulations to the maestro on their YouTube channels.

[La Fenicce](#) (18’41”)

[La Scala](#) (15’31”)

[Teatro Regio Torino](#) (01’19”)



Anna Netrebko has decided the schedule of her summer performances

On June 19, Friday, Anna Netrebko and Yusif Eyvazov open the Dresden Opera, — [Orpheus](#) reports. The duo will perform a fragment from the opera *Don Carlos* together with other famous vocalists. The plan was to

present the production in May and for it to be lead by Christian Thielemann. It is difficult to call the coming production a full premiere: according to the epidemiological criteria, it is important to maintain a distance inside the theatre, and the composition itself will be cut down in size and will be held in the concert format. The performances will be held from June 19 to June 22. And in July (23 and 26) Anna Netrebko will sing Tosca in San Carlo, on August 1 she will sing a concert at the famous Arena di Verona.

Birthdays

June 1 — Bolshoi Opera soloist, National Artist of Russia Elena Zelenskaya.



Irina Dolzhenko congratulates Elena Zelenskaya:

[“Happy birthday, dear Lenchka!”](#)

June 2 — ballet master-repetiteur, Merited Artist of Russia Valeri Lagunov

June 2 — guest soloist of the Bolshoi, Merited Artist of Russia Dmitri Ulianov

June 4 — Bolshoi Opera soloist Ekaterina Vorontsova

June 5 — world ballet star, choreographer Johan Kobborg

June 6 — Alexander Pushkin (1799-1837)

June 6 — composer, conductor, National Artist of the USSR Aram Khachaturyan (1903-1978). Among the most important works by Khachaturyan — Spartacus (1954) and Gayane (1942)



Valeri Lagunov as Arkhontes, Boris Akimov as Cleontes (left) in the ballet Icarus by Slonimsky, 1977.
Photo by Alexander Makarov



Alexander Pushkin statue by Anikushin in St Petersburg

June 6 — composer, conductor, National Artist of the USSR Aram Khachaturyan (1903-1978). Among the most important works by Khachaturyan — Spartacus (1954) and Gayane (1942)



Aram Khachaturyan

June 6 — theatre director, National Artist of the USSR Alexei Borodin

June 7 — singer (tenore leggero), National Artist of the Republic Leonid Sobinov (1872-1934)



Leonid Sobinov

June 7 — ballerina, Bolshoi Ballet soloist in 1954-1976 Natalia Kasatkina

June 8 — Bolshoi Ballet leading soloist Maria Vinogradova

June 8 — opera bass, mentor, National Artist of the USSR Artur Eisen (1927-2008); he sang at the Bolshoi for more than 40 years (1956-2002)

June 8 — singer (tenore robusto), tutor, National Artist of the USSR Nikandr Khanaev (1890-1974); during his 24 years as the Bolshoi Opera soloist (1926-1954) he sang 34 roles including The Queen of Spades, Ruslan and Lyudmila, Boris Godunov, Khovanschina, Sadko, Aida, Carmen, Otello etc. In late 1940s — early 1950s he was the deputy director of the Bolshoi — 130th anniversary of his birth



Nikandr Khanaev as Sadko, 1949.

Photo by Semyon Mishin-Morgenshtern

June 10 — Bolshoi Ballet prima ballerina, National Artist of Russia Svetlana Zakharova.



Svetlana Zakharova as Carmen

June 11 — conductor, National Artist of the RSFSR Vasily Nebolsin (1898-1958) He was the Bolshoi chorus master in 1920, and a conductor in 1922.

June 11 — ballerina Nina Timofeeva (1935-2014), she danced at the Bolshoi in 1956-1988 — 85th anniversary of her birth



Nina Timofeeva as Odile in The Swan Lake by the Bolshoi (1960) Author: Evgeni Umnov

June 12 — the ballet company manager, National Artist of Russia Galina Stepanenko



Galina Stepanenko as Aegina in Spartacus

June 12 — ballerina, ballet-master, National Artist of the USSR Maria Semyonova (1908-2010) She danced at the Bolshoi in 1930-1952; worked as a ballet-mistress from 1953.

June 13 — opera singer (romantic coloratura), tutor, National Artist of the USSR Valeria Barsova (1892-1967)

January 15 — ballet-master-repetiteur of the Bolshoi Anna Leonova

June 15 — director and set designer Pier Luigi Pizzi. He staged the opera La Sonnambula by Bellini at the Bolshoi in 2013 — 90th anniversary of his birth

June 16 — the ballet company director, National Artist of Russia Makhar Vaziev



Makhar Vaziev Photo by Alexander Kazakov/Izvestia

June 16 — ballerina, ballet-master Alla Osipenko

June 17 — composer Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

June 18 — Bolshoi Opera soloist (2016-2019) Aluda Todua

June 18 — outstanding singer Éva Marton

The Bolshoi online shop reminds you of the opportunity to order exclusive souvenirs online with home delivery worldwide.

