

The Bolshoi Theatre of Russia took an active part in the celebrations dedicated to the National Artist of the USSR, Hero of Socialist Labour, Full Cavalier of the Order of Merit for the Fatherland, Lenin (1970) and State (1995) prizes laureate, conductor, teacher, pianist, composer and musical public figure [Gennady Rozhdestvensky](#) (May 4, 1931 – June 16, 2018). In 1951–60 and 1978–82 he was a conductor at the Bolshoi Theatre (he made his debut at the Bolshoi, conducting *The Sleeping Beauty* by Tchaikovsky), in 1965–70 he was the chief conductor, in the 2000/01 season he was the general artistic director of the Bolshoi Theatre.

On March 14, the formal unveiling of a memorial plaque to this outstanding musical figure of our time took place in Moscow, a joint project of the Bolshoi Theatre and the Moscow State Conservatory.

The creator of the plaque is Russian Academy of Arts member, sculptor Anatoly Smolenkov.

The event was attended by the musician's widow, National Artist of Russia Victoria Postnikova, the Bolshoi General Director Vladimir Urin, Rector of the Moscow Conservatory Alexander Sokolov, Chief Conductor of the State Academic Symphony Capella of Russia Valery Polyansky and the Head of the Moscow Department of Culture Alexander Kibovsky.

[A Tribute to Gennady Rozhdestvensky](#) – see more on the Bolshoi website

Photo by Pavel Rychkov from the opening night ([drive.google.com](#))

Videos from the formal unveiling ceremony for the memorial plaque in [Telegram](#)



The formal unveiling of a memorial plaque to the National Artist of the USSR Gennady Rozhdestvensky at the house he lived in for many years – 5/10 Karetny Ryad Str, Moscow – March 14. Photo by Pavel Rychkov and Katerina Novikova



On March 13, a day before the memorial plaque unveiling, a concert-presentation of the book *Glosses /Comments*, prepared by the maestro's pupil Konstantin Maslyuk, took place at the Moscow Conservatory Grand Hall.

The concert lineup on the Moscow Conservatory [website](#)

The book *Gennady Rozhdestvensky. Glosses/Comments* on the Moscow Conservatory [website](#)



Gennady Rozhdestvensky. *Glosses/Comments* – Scientific & Publishing Centre Moscow Conservatory

National Artist of Russia, Academician of the Russian Academy of Arts [Boris Messerer](#) celebrated his 90th birthday on March 15.

An outstanding painter, graphic artist, stage designer he designed more than 100 productions around the world, and among his most famous theatrical works are *Carmen*, *The Little Humpbacked Horse*, *Bright Stream* at the Bolshoi (as well as *The Firebird*, *Petrushka*, *Egyptian Nights*, *Chopiniana*, *Le Pavillon d'Armide* and other productions). Boris Messerer is the son of the famous Bolshoi ballet master [Asaf Messerer](#) and the actress and theatre designer [Anel Sudakevich](#), the widow of the poetess Bella Akhmadulina and the cousin of the ballerina Maya Plisetskaya.

The media publish greetings and report about the artist's exhibitions.

Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated Boris Messerer, noting his impeccable taste and unique style. The telegram was published on the Kremlin [website](#).

[TASS](#).

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin: "Your creative works are metaphor and reality, expression, depth and philosophy. They adorn the best museums and galleries, the famous productions of the Bolshoi Theatre, the Sovremennik Theatre and the Chekhov Moscow Art Theatre. Each one of them is an example of true art."

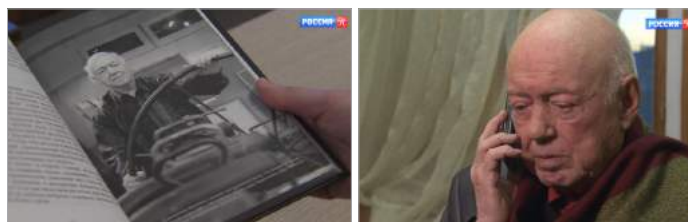
[TASS](#).

[Vechernyaya Moskva](#) publishes congratulations from Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin

On March 13, shortly before the artist's anniversary, a meet-the-artist event with [Boris Messerer](#), timed to coincide with the release of the book *Life Passes Into Memory*, was held in the artistic salon of the Central House of Actors. The head of the Bolshoi press office Katerina Novikova was the host.



[Meet the artist event](#) with the National Artist of RF – March 13



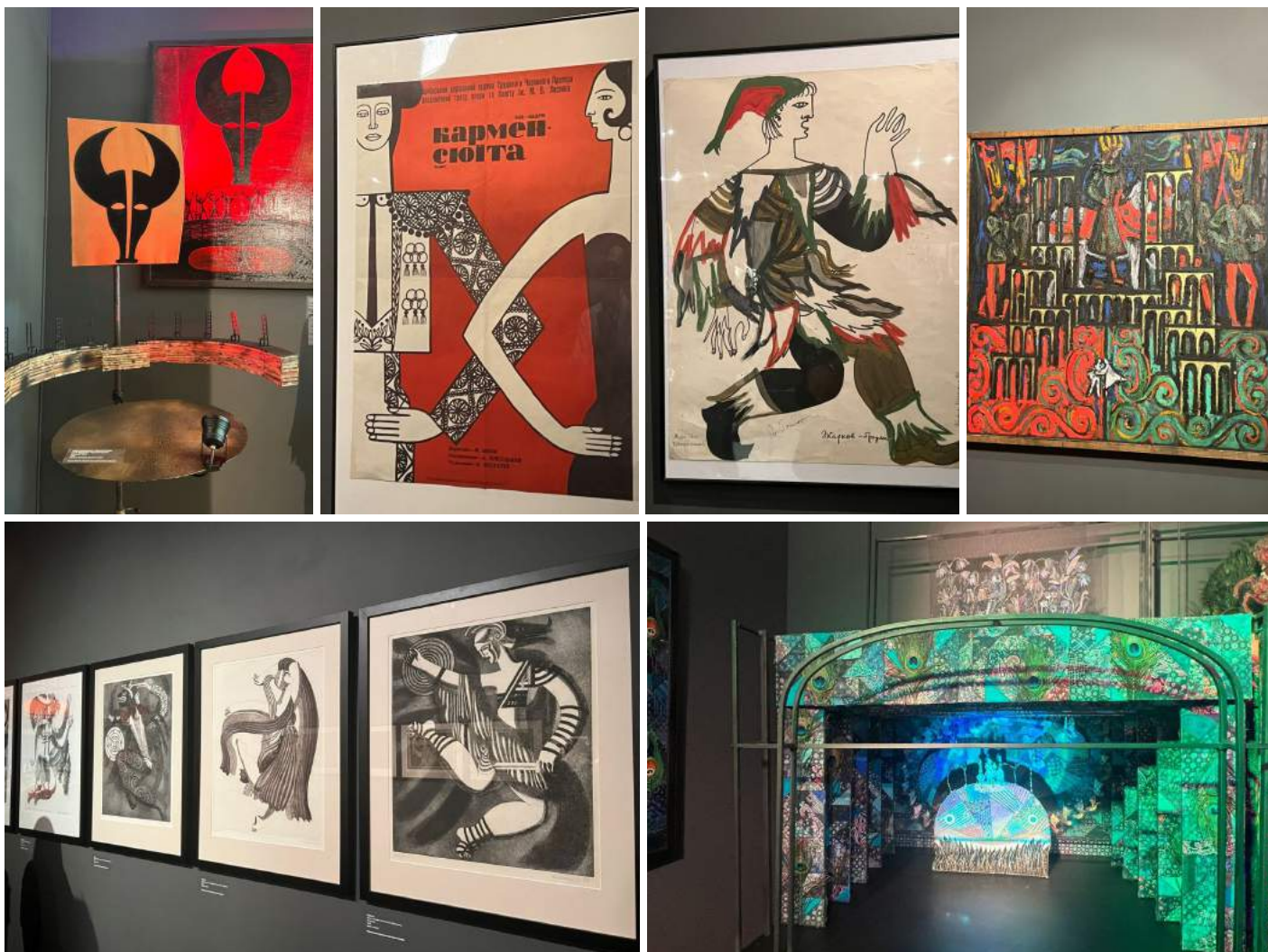
Boris Messerer Has Released a Book of Memoirs – [Rossia-Kultura](#) TV channel video report from the event.

On March 15, the Russian National Museum of Music presented the exhibition *Boris Messerer's Theatre. Anniversary Exhibition*. The retrospective includes more than 120



Boris Messerer at the opening of his exhibition at the Museum of Music – March 15. Photo by Katerina Novikova





*Boris Messerer's Theatre. Anniversary Exhibition. Photo by Katerina Novikova*

works by the set designer, [TASS](#) correspondent reports. The grand opening of Boris Messerer's exhibition took place on his birthday.

[The First Channel](#) report The Outstanding Artist of the Grand Stage Boris Messerer Celebrates His Birthday

From **March 22 to April 9**, the Academy of Arts showrooms will host the exhibition [Boris Messerer. Themes and Variations](#).

The retrospective exhibition features about 100 paintings and graphic works of the artist, including portraits, landscapes and still lifes not presented to the general public before.

An exhibition dedicated to [the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sergei Rachmaninov](#) (March 20, 1873 – March 28, 1943) opened at the Bolshoi Exposition Foyer on March 16. There are photographic portraits of the composer with the artists, scenes from the Bolshoi performances of different years – the operas *Aleko*, *The Miserly Knight*, *Francesca da Rimini*, the ballets *Paganini*, *Nijinsky*; sketches of costumes, scenery, posters (copies). You can visit the exhibition until April 26, 2023.

Read more about the exhibition on the Bolshoi [website](#) in "The world of imagination has proved to have much more power than the real one. What happiness it is to be an artist!" [the composer's words]:



[For the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Sergei Rachmaninov.](#)

The Bolshoi Theatre Museum opens an exhibition at the Exposition Foyer



The exposition was the first “item” in the programme the Bolshoi prepared for the celebration of the anniversary of the birth of Sergei Rachmaninov. Here are the other three:

Sergei Rachmaninov. [Favourites](#) the Bolshoi Young Artists Opera Programme members. Beethoven Hall, March 16 and 18

Sergei Rachmaninov. *All-Night Vigil*, [Aleko](#) The Bolshoi Theatre soloists, chorus and orchestra.

Conductors – Valery Borisov, Alexei Vereshchagin. The Historic Stage, April 9

Sergei Rachmaninov. [Symphony No. 2, The Bells](#) Bolshoi Theatre Chorus and Orchestra

Conductor – Filipp Selivanov. The Historic Stage, May 21

March 2, 3, 4 and 5, the Chamber Stage – the Bolshoi presented the first premiere of the season – Alexei Verstovsky’s opera [Askold’s Grave](#). First shown at the Bolshoi in 1835, the opera has not been staged at the theatre for 140 years, since 1883.

Libretto by Mikhail Zagoskin in the version by director [Maria Fomicheva](#).

Musical version in four acts by [Ivan Velikanov](#) (Music Director).

Set Designer – [Alyona Glinskaya](#)

Chorus Masters – [Alexander Kritsky](#), [Pavel Suchkov](#)

[Casts](#)

The premiere series at the Chamber Stage will run on April 6–9, 2023.



Askold’s Grave at the Chamber Stage – March 2–5. Azamat Tsaliti (Vseslav) and Ekaterina Semenova (Nadezhda); Ekaterina Bolshakova (Vakhrameevna); Alexandra Nanoshkina (Nadezhda); Mikhail Yanenko (Torop), Zlata Rubinova (Buslaevna) and other artists. Photo by Pavel Rychkov



## EVENTS

February 28, March 1 and 2, the Historic Stage – ballet [The Winter's Tale](#) to the music by [Joby Talbot](#) based on Shakespeare's play of the same name.

Choreographer – [Christopher Wheeldon](#). The production is the *Golden Mask* winner in the categories Best Conductor ([Anton Grishanin](#), – conducting on March 1 and 2), Best Male Role" ([Artem Ovcharenko](#) – Leontes in March 1 performance).

Ayrat Kashaev conducted the performance on February 28.

### [Casrs](#)



Artem Ovcharenko as Leontes in *The Winter's Tale* music by Joby Talbot

March 3, 4, 5, the Historic Stage – another premiere series of the revived one-act ballets [Chopiniana](#) by Fokine (the revival choreographers – Natalia Bolshakova, Vadim Gulyaev) and the Grand Pas from the ballet [Paquita](#) by Minkus, edited by Yuri Burlaka. The revival premiere took place on November 30 – December 4, 2022.



Lina Sheveleva, Evgenia Obraztsova, Artem Ovcharenko, Ekaterina Krysanova (trio in the centre), Kristina Kretova; Tatyana Tiliguzova. Photo by Damir Yusupov.



The finale. Eleonora Sevenard as *Paquita*. Photo by Damir Yusupov.

[Chopiniana](#) returned to the Bolshoi stage after a 10-year break. The stylisation of a romantic ballet to music by Frederic Chopin was one of the first creations by Mikhail Fokine, a dance reformer.

The production carried out by National Artists of the RSFSR [Natalia Bolshakova](#) and [Vadim Gulyaev](#), – former Kirov Ballet stars whose duet was considered a point of reference. Now they are acclaimed teachers, repetiteurs and classical dance heritage preservationists.

Set Designer – [Vladimir Dmitriev](#) (1900–1948).

Revival Designer – [Alyona Pikalova](#)

Costume Designer – [Tatiana Noginova](#)

Lighting Designer – [Damir Ismagilov](#)

Music Director – [Pavel Klinichev](#) (conductor)

### [Casts](#)

Choreographer, Merited Artist of Russia [Yuri Burlaka](#) – is a renowned expert known in Russian classical ballet heritage preservation.



Vadim Gulyaev, Natalia Bolshakova, Yuri Burlaka, Alyona Pikalova, Damir Ismagilov, Tatiana Noginova – in the TV film *Heritage*, dedicated to the revival of one-act ballet *Chopiniana* and Grand Pas from the ballet *Paquita*, – on the Bolshoi video [hosting](#)

Set Designer – Alyona Pikalova, Costume Designer – Elena Zaitseva. Lighting Designer – Damir Ismagilov.  
Music Director – Pavel Klinichev (conductor)

### Casts

The TV film *Heritage*, dedicated to the revival of one-act ballet *Chopiniana* and Grand Pas from the ballet *Paquita* at the Historic Stage (shown on Rossia-Kultura channel within the programme *Ticket to the Bolshoi* on January 27), – is available in full (39'08") on the Bolshoi VK-community [page](#) and on the video [hosting](#).

March 8–12, the Historic Stage – opera *Il Viaggio A Reims* by Gioacchino Rossini.



*Il Viaggio A Reims*. Photo by Damir Yusupov from the performance on March 9.

The staging is a co-production with the Dutch National Opera (Amsterdam), Royal Danish Opera (Copenhagen) and Opera Australia (Sidney).

Music Director – [Tugan Sokhiev](#)  
Director – [Damiano Michieletto](#)  
Set Designer – [Paolo Fantin](#)  
Costume Designer – [Carla Teti](#)  
Lighting Designer – [Alessandro Carletti](#)  
Conductor – [Alexei Vereshchagin](#)

### Casts

March 14, 15, 16, the Historic Stage – *Spartacus* by Khachaturyan, staged by [Yuri Grigorovich](#).



*Spartacus* by Khachaturyan and Grigorovich at the Historic Stage on March 14-16. Photo by Elena Fetisova

Music Director – [Gennady Rozhdestvensky](#)  
Set Designer – [Simon Virsaladze](#)  
Conductors – [Pavel Sorokoin](#) (March 14), [Alexei Bogorad](#) (March 15), [Pavel Klinichev](#) (March 16).

### Casts

March 18 and 19, the Historic Stage – *Jewels* by [George Balanchine](#) (January 22, 1904 – April 30, 1983): *Emeralds* to music by Gabriel Fauré, *Rubies* to music by Igor Stravinsky, *Diamonds* to music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky.

The Bolshoi premiere was on May 5, 2012. Teachers-Repetiteurs – [Sandra Jennings](#), [Merrill Ashley](#), [Paul Boos](#).

New costumes were created especially for the production, in agreement with The George Balanchine Trust.

Set Designer – [Alyona Pikalova](#)  
Costume Designer – [Elena Zaitseva](#)  
Music Director – Pavel Sorokin

### Casts



*Jewels: Emeralds, Rubies, Diamonds*. Photo by Damir Yusupov. March 18 and 19, the Historic Stage

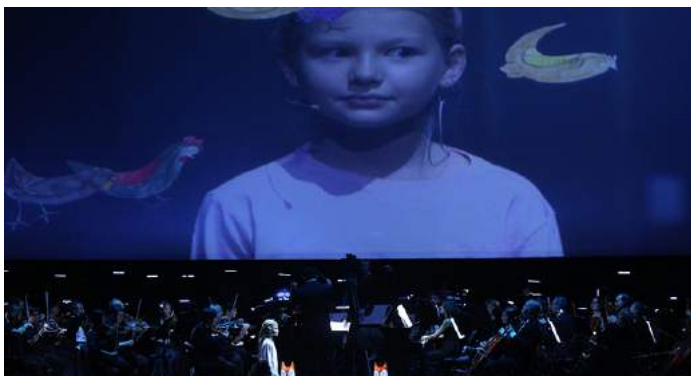
March 3, 4 and 5, the New Stage – a theatrical concert-excursion to the world of the symphony orchestra, combining Britten's *Guide (Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Purcell)* and Saint-Saëns' "zoological fantasy" – *The Guide to the Orchestra. Le Carnaval des Animaux*.

Director – [Alexei Frandetti](#)  
Music Director – [Anton Grishanin](#)



Conductor – [Alexei Bogorad](#)

### Casts



Le Carnaval des Animaux. Elizaveta Bugulova as Anya.  
Photo by Elena Fetisova

March 7 and 8, the New Stage – ballet [The Taming of the Shrew](#) to music from works by Shostakovich, staged by [Jean-Christophe Maillot](#) at the request of the Bolshoi Theatre.

The world premiere was on July 4, 2014.

[Shakespeare, Shostakovich, Maillot](#) – see more about the production.

Guest Conductor – [Alexei Repnikov](#)

### Casts

Next time this season the ballet will be performed on May 2 and 3.

March 10, 11 and 12, the New Stage – ballet [Coppelia](#) by Leo Delibes

Choreography: Marius Petipa and Enrico Cecchetti

Staging and new choreographic version: [Sergei Vkharev](#) (15.02.1962–2.06.2017).

### Casts

Conductors – [Pavel Sorokin](#) (March 10, 11 (12:00), 12), [Alexei Bogorad](#) (March 11 (19:00)).

Sergei Vkharev, ballet master, choreographer and restorer of old ballets, the *Golden Mask* winner, was a guest of the Bolshoi [Green Salon](#) (2013). The talk led by Katerina Novikova (44'07).

The head of the Bolshoi Ballet [Makhar Vaziev](#) in a [video Coppelia: Stage Revival](#) (02'26").



*Coppelia* in Sergei Vkharev's version at the New Stage – March 10–12. Photo by Elena Fetisova

The recorded screening of the revived staging of *Coppelia* from the [New Stage](#) (screened for the world audience on June 10, 2018) is available on DVD and Blu-ray at the Bolshoi's partner company [Bel Air Classiques](#)



A scene from *La bohème*. Photo by Damir Yusupov

March 15–19, the New Stage – [La Bohème](#) by Giacomo Puccini.

The staging by [Jean-Romain Vesperini](#) first took place on July 24, 2018.

Music Director – [Evan Rogister](#), later – musical director of the production of Wagner's opera *Lohengrin*, last season's premiere.

Set Designer – [Bruno de Lavenere](#)

Costume Designer – [Cédric Tirado](#)

Lighting Designer – [Christophe Chaupin](#)

Video Designer – [Étienne Guiol](#)

Chief Chorus Master – [Valery Borisov](#)

The Bolshoi Children's Choir takes part in the performance.

Conductor – [Filipp Selivanov](#) (all days)

### Casts

March 9, Beethoven Hall – [Chamber Music Evening](#), the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra artists concert.

They performed works by Johannes Brahms and Anton Arensky. [Programme](#)

March 14, Beethoven Hall – the Bolshoi Chamber Orchestra concert [Faces of Romanticism. Hector Berlioz. Richard Wagner. Johannes Brahms.](#)

### The programme

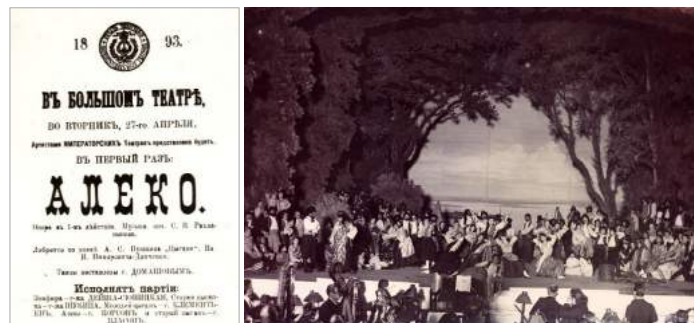


Alina Chertash in the concert *Faces of Romanticism*. Conductor – Mikhail Tsinman. (Photo / Social Media)



March 16 and 18, Beethoven Hall – Sergei Rachmaninov. Favourites, – the Bolshoi Young Artists Opera Programme concert in honour of the 150th anniversary of the composer's birth.

They performed songs and romances by the composer to lyrics by Russian poets.



*Aleko*: the premiere poster and a scene from the performance, 1893 / Bolshoi Theatre Museum. – Exhibition dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sergei Rachmaninov, the Exposition Foyer



*La Périchole* by Offenbach at the Chamber Stage.  
Photo by Pavel Rychkov

March 9–12, the Chamber Stage – La Périchole by Offenbach.

Music Director – Philipp Tchizhevsky

Director and Set Designer – Philipp Grigoryan

Conductor – Ayrat Kashaev

Casts

March 16–19, the Chamber Stage – Maddalena. L'Heure Espagnole by Prokofiev and Ravel

Music Director – Alexey Vereshchagin (conductor all days).

Director, Set Designer and Costume Designer –

Vladislavs Nastavševs

Casts

On March 14, the layout for The Queen of Spades, – a new ballet to music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky and Yuri Krasavin, to be premiered at the Historic Stage, was presented by

choreographer Yuri Possokhov, set designer Polina Bakhtina, lighting designer Gleb Filshtinsky

Libretto by Valery Pecheykin

Music Director – Anton Grishanin

The premiere date will be announced later.



Yuri Possokhov presented the layout for *The Queen of Spades* ballet to music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky and Yuri Krasavin.  
Photo by Katerina Novikova

March 15 is the founding day of the Bolshoi Theatre School in Joinville / Escola do Teatro Bolshoi no Brasil (State of Santa Catarina, Brazil).

The Brazilian news publication ND Mais: “The Joinville Dance Festival turns 40 in 2023 and the attractions for the special nights have already been released to make dance lovers even more excited for the event that takes place in



Galas for the 23rd anniversary of the Bolshoi Theatre School in Joinville (Brazil) – March 15 and 16 / social media



July./.../ On Gala Night, it will be the turn of neoclassical ballet to take the stage at Centreventos Cau Hansen. The Bolshoi School in Brazil presents the classic *Cinderella* on July 23./.../

Since March 15, 2000, the only branch of the Bolshoi Theatre in Russia has been installed in Joinville. The Bolshoi School provides training for dance artists through ballet technique according to the Vaganova methodology, contemporary dance and complementary disciplines. The institution receives students from different Brazilian states and abroad and grants 100% scholarships and benefits."

Escola do Teatro Bolshoi no Brasil on [social media](#)

A film about the Bolshoi Theatre was awarded a special prize at the [Big Digit Award](#)

The winners of the *Big Digit National Award* in the field of multichannel digital television were announced within the CSTB.PRO.MEDIA-2023 forum. A film about the Bolshoi Theatre, *The Bolshoi. The Season*, presented in the category "Documentary", received a special prize for its contribution to cultural heritage preservation.

*The Bolshoi. The Season* is a co-production by Star Media and KION online cinema. The German holding Kinescope Film also took part in the project.

They chose one of the most difficult seasons in the recent history of the Bolshoi, the post-pandemic 246th one, to tell about the theatre's daily life.

## RUSSIAN MEDIA

The Bolshoi rehearses *Il Trovatore* by Giuseppe Verdi. The opera concert performances will be on March 29, 31, and April 2.

Music Director – [Jordi Bernàcer](#)

Conductor – [Filipp Selivanov](#)

Chief Chorus Master – [Valery Borisov](#)

See more about the upcoming premiere on our [website](#).



«Трубадур», Большой театр

[Forbes](#)

The concert performance of Verdi's *Il trovatore* on March 29 and 31, April 2 at the Historic Stage is announced by the [Russian Forbes](#):

Central media reported on the unveiling of a memorial plaque to Gennady Rozhdestvensky on the house where the conductor lived in Moscow for six decades. A video report by [Rossia-K](#)

[Rossia-K](#)



A Memorial Plaque to the Conductor Gennady Rozhdestvensky was Unveiled in Moscow/[Rossia-K](#)

[TASS](#):

"First of all, this is our human duty to Gennady Nikolayevich Rozhdestvensky./.../ It seems to me that this is our need first of all. I am glad that I see among his students, who have gathered today, those who took the conductor's baton and who conduct at the country's main music venues," said Vladimir Urin, the Bolshoi General Director at the unveiling ceremony. He noted that Rozhdestvensky was a great innovator who proved the necessity of performing not only the classics, but also the works of contemporary composers, all the time.

Vladimir Urin's words about Rozhdestvensky, transmitted by TASS, are quoted by [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#) and many other media.

[5 Channel](#)

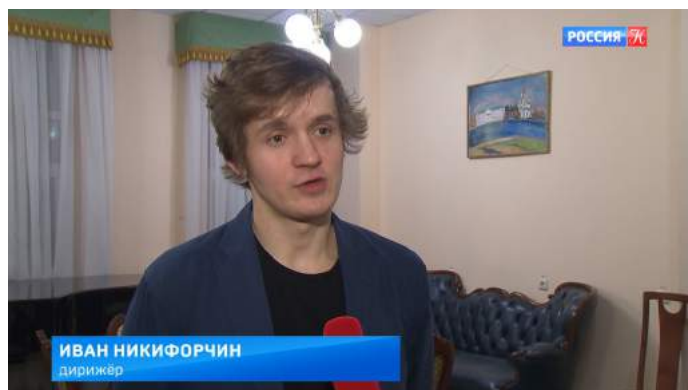
[CNA Moskva](#)

[Muzykalnaya Zhizn](#)

[Muzykalnoye Obozrenie](#)

[ClassicalMusicNews.ru](#)

and other media.



A book by Conductor Gennady Rozhdestvensky was Presented at the Moscow Conservatory /[Rossia-K](#)



A Book by Conductor Gennady Rozhdestvensky was Presented at the Moscow Conservatory – a video by [Rossia-K](#)

The Moscow Conservatory have been preparing *Glosses* by conductor Gennady Rozhdestvensky for four years. A book about Music. Maestro collected materials all his life. Alexander Sokolov has already called *Glosses* a true bible for conductors. /.../

Russian media widely covered Boris Messerer's birthday.

"Shortly before his 90th birthday, the artist and set designer Boris Messerer released a book of memoirs *Life Passes Into Memory*," says the video report by [Rossia-K](#).

"The Actor's House in Arbat is one of Boris Messerer's favourite places. /.../ That evening, the house was full: everyone wanted to hear firsthand stories about life that had passed into memory. This is what Messerer called his book, with a postscript – "an artist about artists". Boris Messerer says that his circle of friends has always included people in whom the spirit of contradiction was strong. This is not surprising, because he himself was and remains so. He dedicated one of the book's chapters to Irina Antonova, director of Pushkin Museum, who introduced him to Svyatoslav Richter. /.../ With Richter, Boris Messerer worked on the scenery for the concert which became the beginning of a series of December evenings at the Pushkin Museum. This meeting gave Messerer lifelong impressions. /.../ I draw as it goes, says Boris Messerer. /.../ He also continues to write, he says, he lacked time to tell about everyone. Several chapters for the new book are already complete. And in the near future – the opening of two solo exhibitions in Moscow." On [Rossia-K](#) – A Monologue of a Free Artist. Boris Messerer (2013), – a cycle about the life and creative destiny of a theatre artist, set designer, National Artist of the Russian Federation.



A Monologue of a Free Artist. Boris Messerer on [Rossia-K](#)

An extended interview dedicated to the birthday of the Bolshoi general director Vladimir Urin is published on March 19 by the [Story magazine](#): "/.../ about how the theatre survived its extremely difficult year outside the international social-cultural context, about preparations for the Bolshoi 250th anniversary which we will celebrate in three years, about the director who actually wanted to become an actor, about which spectators are dearest to the director's heart, and also about whether there is solidarity in the

theatrical world, about courage in art and about spectator hypocrisy which "should pass unnoticed" ... But the most touching thing in this interview is the memories of childhood and youth which, of course, were theatrical ..."



[Story](#)

The 16th Yuri Bashmet International Winter Festival of Arts with the participation of Svetlana Zakharova and the Bolshoi stars ended in Sochi.

[Nezavisimaya Gazeta](#) "/.../ This year's competition was dedicated to the memory of Alfred Schnittke and Svyatoslav Richter and was held in two categories – String quartet and Piano trio, quartet or quintet. For the first time in Sochi, they showed the famous programme by Svetlana Zakharova and Vadim Repin *Pas de deux for toes and fingers*/.../The evening ended with the humorous *Gnomes' Round Dance*" (choreography by Johan Kobborg), where the four soloists – the Bolshoi dancers Mikhail Lobukhin, Vyacheslav Lopatin, Denis Savin and Artemy Belyakov – fight for the heart of beautiful Zakharova, but she prefers the violinist to them.



For the first time in Sochi, they showed the famous programme by Svetlana Zakharova and Vadim Repin *Pas de deux for toes and fingers* Photo / [NG](#)

The Chekhov Moscow Art Theatre announced the jury for its award in the field of arts, established in the year of the



125th anniversary of the theatre's foundation. The award is aimed at supporting and popularising young artists under the age of 35. Winners will be named in eight categories. The awards ceremony will take place on March 27, 2023, at the theatre's Main Stage. As a special prize, the winners in each category will get the opportunity to use the New Stage of the Moscow Art Theatre for their creative projects once a year.

[Kultura](#)

[TASS](#)



Svetlana Zakharova and Ildar Abdrazakov listed as members of the jury of the Moscow Art Theatre Award

March 8 was the 105th anniversary of the birth of Leokadia Maslennikova.

"Opera singer Leokadia Maslennikova. Cinderella, who became a Bolshoi soloist," – the anniversary material of the classical music Radio [Orpheus](#):



Opera singer Leokadia Maslennikova. Photo [/Orpheus](#)

"Leokadia Maslennikova's soprano voice was heard at the Bolshoi Theatre in the post-war years. She was the one the legendary Italian tenor Mario del Monaco chose as a partner when he toured in Moscow. /.../ Abroad, Leokadia performed not only popular Soviet songs, but also the classical repertoire. The programmes often featured Mazhenka's aria from Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*. The role of the coquettish and graceful heroine of the Czech composer's opera was close to the singer both in character and in voice. The similarity was caught by the eminent director Boris Pokrovsky who entrusted this part to the debutante of the Bolshoi Theatre. He was not mistaken – the whole country learned about Maslennikova's talent. The peak of her popularity was in the 50s and 60s. The singer coped with the most difficult part of Marguerite in Gounod's *Faust* perfectly. Her Lisa from *The Queen of Spades* by Tchaikovsky shocked the audience of the most prestigious house in Great Britain – the Royal Albert Hall. And the Belgian music lovers remembered her concert with Pavel Lisitsian for a long time /.../".

Federal and regional media report that Hibla Gerzmava presented the laureates of her competition in Moscow and St Petersburg, and Alexei Kulagin, the Grand Prix winner and a Bolshoi YOP graduate, performed in concerts.

A video by [Russia-K](#)

A video by [Russia-K](#)

[First Channel:](#)

[Orpheus](#) and many other media..

In the Name of Beauty – [Sankt-Peterburgskie Vedomosti](#) reports about the opening of the exhibition at Manege Showroom – [The First Position, Russian Ballet](#) (it will run until 21 May) "The exhibition is immense: a thousand items from forty museums and theatres from different cities of Russia. But it's not hard to watch. As is usual recently, the exhibition is a theatrical, original performance, with a lot of attractions of all sorts. /.../ The famous *Swan* by Mikhail Vrubel arrived from Tretyakov Gallery. After all, the swan is one of the chief birds of the ballet world. Swans, and *Swan Lake* in particular, are given special attention. The stands show a brief history of the famous ballet productions. The classical – one might even say reference – version belongs to Marius Petipa and Leo Ivanov. In 1933 a new version was created by Agrippina Vaganova...

And the viewer can also get acquainted with the *Swan Lake* Laboratory – productions where choreographers moved further and further away from the canonical version of the museum ballet towards their own fantasies. John Neumeier, for example, in 1976 staged the ballet *Illusions – Like the Swan Lake* in Hamburg. In the plot, he used the story of King Ludwig II of Bavaria, a romantic, a passionate admirer of Wagner, who was weary of power and met a tragic end / ... / And the most touching exhibit came from Klin – these are the slippers of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, the creator of the music for *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *The Nutcracker*. At the Tchaikovsky Museum Estate, these slippers with embroidered birds are neatly placed next to the bed. The



exhibition organisers say that the slippers had not left the museum for 125 years. And now they made their first trip and came to St Petersburg for the sake of a ballet exhibition. The slippers were embroidered by the composer's cousin Anastasia Popova./.../ Of course, they couldn't do without *Les Saisons Russes* by Sergei Diaghilev."

[See more](#)



The First Position, Russian Ballet exhibition opened at Manege Showroom. Photo by Dmitry Sokolov /[SPb Vedomosti](#)

Leading domestic media continue to cover the premiere of the new staging of Prokofiev's *War and Peace* in Munich.

**Kommersant:** "The premiere of Prokofiev's *War and Peace* at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, directed by Dmitri Tcherniakov, was scheduled a long time ago – theatres plan their seasons two or even three years in advance. But life made adjustments, and the plans were forced to change. It was the same in 1941, when Sergei Prokofiev himself kept making changes – now he reconsidered the image of Kutuzov, then he enriched the relationship between Natasha and Andrei. In general, Prokofiev summed up all his searches in the operatic genre there. He had never worked on a single composition for so long and never made so many versions: the last edits were made in 1952. The composer wrote the libretto in collaboration with his wife Mira Mendelssohn-Prokofieva. The premiere took place in Leningrad in 1946..."

"No historical costumes, just pain and despair," Viktoria Karkacheva about Dmitri Tcherniakov's production," **Kommersant** publishes an interview:

"*War and Peace* brought together different generations of Russian soloists in Munich, including, say, Sergei Leiferkus, and there are also many foreigners, and Akhrosimova is performed by Dmitri Tcherniakov's favourite singer, the Lithuanian mezzo Violeta Urmana. How did everyone get along?"

"/.../ The cast in our production is amazing, the company is magnificent, they all are true professionals. The leading roles were played by the YOP graduates and the Bolshoi soloists: Davronov, Kulchinskaya, Zhilikhovskiy, Korpacheva, Ulyanov. No swings, the production has only one cast. The premiere series runs now, and the next block will be in June. What happens next is still unknown."

### «Никаких исторических костюмов, только боль и отчаяние»

Виктория Каркачева о «Войне и мире» в постановке Дмитрия Чернякова

В мюнхенской Баварской государственной опере в Мюнхене идут премьерные показы оперы «Война и мир» Сергея Прокофьева в постановке Дмитрия Чернякова под музыкальным руководством Владимира Юровского. Рецензию на резонансный по многим причинам спектакль "Ъ" поместит в одном из следующих номеров, а пока о премьере и своей работе **Владимиру Дудину** рассказала меццо-сопрано **Виктория Каркачева**, недавняя выпускница Молодежной программы Большого театра, исполняющая в Мюнхене партию Элен Безуховой.



Виктория Каркачева  
Фото: Bayerische Staatsoper

[Kommersant](#)

The documentary *Dancing Lyudmila Semenyaka* (USSR, Ekran, 1979), with an interview with the National Artist of the USSR before the show, was on [Rossia-Kultura](#) TV channel in the cycle The 20th Century on March 9.

The **TV channel** announcement: "While still studying at Vaganova Leningrad Choreographic School, Lyudmila Semenyaka popped into the Vaganova Museum between lessons and certainly asked for an album with old photos of Galina Ulanova. And having learned that the great ballerina sometimes comes to look at their classes, she was afraid that she would not be shown to her idol. Ulanova saw 17-year-old Lyudmila at the *First Moscow International Ballet Competition*. Galina Sergeevna headed the jury which included Yuri Grigorovich, Vakhtang Chabukiani, Alicia Alonso – the founder of Cuban ballet, Maya Plisetskaya, French prima ballerina Yvette Chauvire ..."

Dancing Lyudmila Semenyaka on the Soviet Television  
[video hosting](#)



A documentary with an interview with Lyudmila Semenyaka before the show in The 20th Century cycle on [Rossia-K](#)

The media announce the performance of Svetlana Zakharova at the 10th Trans-Siberian Art Festival.

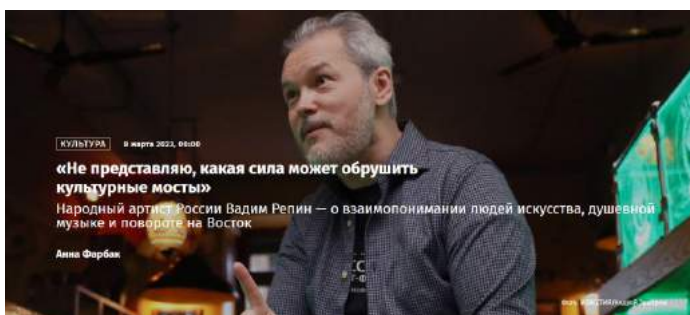


"Ballerina Svetlana Zakharova in a scene from the ballet Gabrielle Chanel". Photo / TASS/ [Izvestia](#)

A video report about the start of the festival was shown by the [Rossia-K](#) channel "Chamber and symphonic music, cross-genre projects, Russian and world premieres."

"Vadim Repin opens the 10th Trans-Siberian Art Festival," an interview with the head of the festival in [Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Izvestia](#):



[Izvestia](#)

## INTERNATIONAL MEDIA



"The composer's work was censored in Russia: Prokofiev with his wife (in the centre) at the congress of composers in 1948. Photo from the Glinka Museum of Music in Moscow" / [DW](#)

On March 5, the [Bavarian State Opera](#) in Munich hosted the premiere of Sergei Prokofiev's opera *War and Peace* directed by Dmitri Tcherniakov. Music Director – Vladimir Jurowski. Costume Designer – Elena Zaitseva.

The *War and Peace* premiere was livestreamed on [Staatsoper.TV](#)

The German media outlet [DW Deutsche Welle](#) publishes an article by Anastassia Boutsko. "A new production of Sergei Prokofiev's opera *War and Peace* at the Bavarian State Opera is a call for peace. Russian star director Dmitri Tcherniakov sets his staging in the heart of Moscow./.../ The new Bavarian staging is a large-scale operatic production, not only because there are 40 soloist roles, but because the music is demanding./.../ Director Dmitri Tcherniakov takes a radical approach to staging the plot: He sets the war in the heart of Moscow. Both the peaceful scenes in the first part of the work and bloody battles and murders later in the piece are set in the columned hall of the Moscow House of Trade Unions – a location familiar to every Russian./.../ "Why do people kill one another?" This central question in Tolstoy's novel is omnipresent throughout the opera. There is no answer. What remains, however, is a hatred of war that increases with each measure of music."



The *War and Peace* premiere was livestreamed on [Staatsoper.TV](#)



[The Financial Times](#) (UK) publishes review by Shirley Apthorp of Dmitri Tcherniakov's staging of Prokofiev's *War and Peace* giving the show five stars out of five. "Last Sunday marked the 70th anniversary of the deaths of Stalin and Prokofiev. In Munich, Bavarian State Opera marked the occasion with a new production of Prokofiev's *War and Peace* (1946), a Stalinistic hymn to the great patriotic war... /.../ Tcherniakov's production is fanatically detailed and ferociously ambitious./.../ You could take a barrel of superlatives and pour it out over the rest of the cast. What Jurowski and Tcherniakov have achieved with their performers is what you hope for most when you go to the opera – a unified cast performing with passionate commitment, utterly certain that what they are doing truly matters."

Financial Times adds a photo: Maxim Paster, Stanislav Kufluk and Victoria Karkacheva in *War and Peace*

The Spanish classical music publication [Platea Magazine](#) publishes a review by Alejandro Martínez. "/.../ what is brilliant about Tcherniakov's proposal is that it transcends borders and leaps beyond any possible reference to present-day Russia. His production brings a message of universal reflection on the internal tearing that any war supposes for any society at any time."

The German newspaper [Der Standard](#) publishes a review by Joachim Lange. "The Russian director Dmitri Tcherniakov turns *War and Peace* into an anti-war performance in Munich/.../



The production features cast members from Russia, Ukraine and elsewhere in eastern Europe.  
Image: Wilfried Hösl/[DW](#)

French news publication [Nouvelles du Monde](#) publishes a review by W. Hoesl titled "Propaganda for Russia? *War and Peace* by Prokofiev in Munich"

The opera news publication [Opera Wire](#) publishes an article by Francisco Salazar who announces that the Bayerische Staatsoper has announced its 2023–24 season. This includes performances with Bogdan Volkov, Dmitry Ulyanov, Igor Golovatenko, Viktoria Karkacheva, Asmik Grigoryan, Boris Pinjasovich and other Russian artists...

The Spanish classical music publication [Scherzo](#) publishes an article by Nicola Cattò who spoke to Ildar Abdrazakov during *Boris Godunov* rehearsals at La Scala. "The impression of the theatre from the outside was not so majestic:

accustomed to the grandeur of the Bolshoi or the Mariinsky, the Piermarini seemed to me a "normal" building. But when I entered the hall, my jaw dropped: I couldn't believe such beauty. And besides, all the people were full of enthusiasm, they were friendly: from 2000 to today this feature has not changed, luckily. /.../"



Ildar Abdrazakov as Boris Godunov at La Scala, December 2022

[Opera Wire](#): "Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO) has announced two of its 2023–24 Carnegie Hall performances, one of which is a concert performance of Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* on January 30, 2024. The concert will present the opera in its entirety with Kristine Opolais starring as Katerina Izmailova and Ildar Abdrazakov as Boris Izmailov and Ghost of Boris. "I am absolutely delighted with my upcoming debut at Carnegie Hall conducted by Andris Nelsons," the Latvian soprano wrote on social media. The Czech tenor Pavel Chernokh (worker Sergey) is announced in the production."

The English language Kazakhstan newspaper [The Astana Times](#): "Some of the world's biggest names in ballet from Germany, the Netherlands, Russia, and the United Kingdom took the stage of Astana Ballet theatre at the Freedom Ballet Gala on March 5." The Bolshoi Ballet leading soloist Maria Vinogradova and



The Bolshoi Theatre soloists Vladislav Lantratov and Maria Vinogradova in *Giselle* pa de deux. Photo /[The Astana Times](#)



Curtain calls after the Freedom Ballet Gala at the Astana Opera, March 5. Photo / [The Astana Times](#)

principal dancer Vladislav Lantratov performed at the Freedom Ballet Gala in Kazakhstan: on March 3 in Alma-Ata and on March 5 in Astana. Details: [MIA Kazinform](#)

The UK news publication [The New European](#) publishes an article by Charlie Connelly titled "Galina Ulanova: the best ballerina in the world" "She was that rarest of dancers, one who could apparently transcend physics and the limitations of the human body/.../ Ulanova developed a personal style twinning perfect technique with astonishing presence and artistic depth, immersing herself in her characters and finding common traits with them to inspire performances way beyond mere technique."



Ballerina Galina Ulanova, 1950. Photo: Bettmann/Getty

The opera news publication [Opera Wire](#) publishes a report by Chris Ruel. "Plácido Domingo is back singing in the



Plácido Domingo performed in the U.S. on Feb. 28 after a long break

U.S., appearing on Feb. 28 in Palm Beach singing a wide range of music from show tunes to zarzuela./.../In a Reel of the performance posted to his Instagram account, the audience greets Domingo with hearty applause and cheers. /.../ On March 9, Domingo will present the programme *Nocheespañola* with the participation of mezzo Maria Katsava in Paris."

The English language Gulf states news publication [Gulf Weekly](#) announces Pavel Klinichev's performance in Bahrain. "... March 2 – the world-renowned Imperial Russian Ballet (IRB), led by its co-founder Gediminas Taranda, will perform the popular *Swan Lake*. The immortal creation of Pyotr Tchaikovsky will be conducted by acclaimed Maestro Pavel Klinichev of the Bolshoi Theatre./.../"

March 15 is the founding day of the Bolshoi Theatre School in Joinville / Escola do Teatro Bolshoi no Brasil (State of Santa Catarina, Brazil).

Brazilian TV reports:

[NDTV](#)

[SCC](#)

[Jornal da Manhã](#)

The Brazilian news publication [News ND Plus](#) reports on the performance of students of the Bolshoi Theatre School in Brazil in the city of Joinville: "The City Hall of Joinville released the schedule of events that mark the 172nd anniversary of the city in the North of Santa Catarina, celebrated on March 9th. The activities will start on Wednesday (1st) and extend throughout the month./.../ The official celebration calendar includes the performance of the Bolshoi Theatre School."

## BRIEFLY

From March 10 to March 31 – to the 85th anniversary of the birth of [Rudolf Nureyev](#) – The international cultural project *Nureyev Seasons* will be held in Moscow, Ufa and Kazan (with the support of the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives, in partnership with the Askar Abdrazakov Foundation for Culture, Art and Cinema, the Bashkir State Opera Ballet, Tatarkino, the Department of Social Development of Moscow, the Moscow Musical Theatre Helikon Opera under the direction of Dmitry Bertman, the cinema Rodina (Ufa) and other partners).

On March 14, in Moscow, *Nureyev Seasons* opens at Helikon Opera with the film *Venice, Carnival, Love*, filmed in 1982 by the Italian film director Mario Lanfranchi, and the photo exhibition of the same name by Arici Graziano. The film was deemed lost for many years and was not included in Nureyev's filmography. The *Nureyev Seasons* organisers found, restored and translated the film into Russian. The shooting of the film *Venice, Carnival, Love* took place against the backdrop of the natural scenery of the Venice Carni-



val. The famous photographer Graziano Arici, Venice-born, happened to be in his native city when the film was being worked on and captured the moments of the filming process.

Until March 29, viewers will be able to visit the photo exhibition and watch documentaries and feature films about the ballet legend. On March 17, on the legendary dancer's birthday, the grand opening of the regional flight of *Nureyev Seasons* took place in Ufa, at the Bashkir State Opera Ballet, and film screenings run from March 18 to 21 at the local Rodina cinema. From March 23 to 27, the project will be held in Kazan, at the Mir cinema.

[Orpheus](#) and many other media inform.

*Nureyev Seasons* on [Telegram](#) the screening programme in Moscow ([\\*.pdf](#))



International cultural project [Nureyev Seasons 2023](#)

On March 17, the day of the 85th anniversary of the birth Rudolf Nureyev, the Bolshoi Ballet stars Kristina Kretova and Igor Tsvirko attended the premiere screening of the legendary recording of the ballet *Swan Lake* with the famous duet – Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn in the main roles, at the Oktyabr Cinema Centre.

[TheatreHD](#) informs about the film premiere: "The performance will be presented by Bolshoi principal dancer Igor Tsvirko and leading soloist Kristina Kretova. The track record of this wonderful ballet couple includes the roles of Rudolf Nureyev and Margot Fonteyn, among other roles.

[TheatreHD](#)



Kristina Kretova and Igor Tsvirko: Two Stars – an interview in the [Story magazine](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#): ".../ Vyacheslav Samodurov, the face of the Ural Opera Ballet, announced his upcoming resignation as head of his ballet troupe. This will happen in the summer, after the end of the theatrical season. Until then, in Yekaterinburg, the choreographer will stage *La Sylphide* by August Bournonville and an evening of one-act ballets on which he is working with his Perm colleague Anton Pimonov and Petersburg Maxims Petrov. Samodurov transformed the provincial troupe into a company which itself became the star of the festivals. For Petrov, this production will become a "shooting point" for the position of artistic director, which he will take after Samodurov's departure. Prior to that, he will hold the position of ballet-master. So far, Samodurov's departure is a much louder event in the national ballet than the appointment of his 29-year-old successor."

[See more](#)

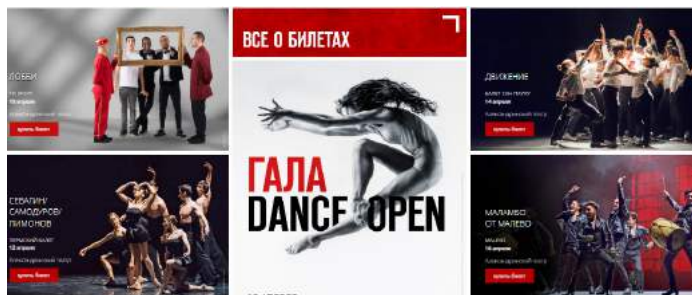
Rehearsals of a new production of Richard Wagner's opera *The Flying Dutchman* have begun at the Perm Opera Ballet. The production, worked on by director Konstantin Bogomolov, conductor Philip Chizhevsky and artist Larisa Lomakina, will be premiered on April 1, 2, 4 and 5, – [Muzykalnaya Zhizn](#) reports: "*The Flying Dutchman* will become a precedent for a co-production carried out by two major domestic musical theatres. The premiere will take place on April 1–5 at the Perm Opera Ballet, the Moscow premiere of the production will open the 2023/24 season of the Novaya Opera Theatre in autumn 2023. In the future, *The Flying Dutchman* will be shown alternately on the stages of both partner theatres, in Perm and Moscow. Philip Chizhevsky, conductor, music director of the production: "Any staging of a Wagner opera is like climbing Mount Everest – it is a personal challenge to elements. You train, prepare equipment and go on a long journey – and you never know what awaits you there. Wagner's human voice is like a piece of wood thrown into the ocean. His music requires huge efforts – physical, moral, intellectual, both from the musicians and from the audience. For the production at the Perm Opera, we settled on the original, first version of *The Flying Dutchman*, which emphasises the artistic uncompromising nature of this work."

The upcoming premiere is reported on by [Orpheus](#) and other media.

The *International Ballet Festival DanceOpen* will take place at the Alexandrinsky Theatre from April 10 to 18. [Orpheus Radio](#) reports. More than 250 artists representing 10 world choreographic brands from France, Hungary, Brazil, Cuba, Argentina and Russia will come to St Petersburg.

The festival will open on April 10 with the Russian premiere of the show [Lobby](#) at the main stage of the Alexandrinsky. Lyon company TieBreak will show a comedy in breakdance style. The festival programme will continue on April 12 with the Russian production of [Sevagin/Samodurov/Pimonov](#). The second part of the festival will run under the sign of the South American ballet: on April 14, one of the leading [Brazilian ballet](#) companies will pres-

ent three one-act ballets in the Movement programme. On April 16, the audience will meet [the Argentine company Malevo](#). The world ballet stars gala will end festival.



[The 22nd Dance Open](#)

The [22 DanceOpen](#) season line-up features a kaleidoscope of choreographic styles: from modern and malambo to breakdance and hip-hop, [Kommersant](#) notes.

The premiere of opera *Nabucco* by Giuseppe Verdi on March 5 opened a series of star-studded operas at the Mariinsky Theatre. In early March, the Historic and New stages and in the Concert Hall host: Hibla Gerzmava, Albina Shagimuratova, Ekaterina Semenchuk, Elena Stikhina, Tatyana Serzhan, Irina Churilova, Yulia Matochkina, Ildar Abdrazakov, Roman Burdenko, Vladislav Sulimsky, Mikhail Petrenko, Sergey Skorokhodov, and many others.

[Muzykalnaya Zhizn](#):

On 24, 25 and 26 March, the Mariinsky New Stage will host the premiere of ballet *La Fille du Pharaon* by Caesar Pugni, with original choreography by Marius Petipa. [The Expert magazine](#): "Today, the company is working eagerly on mastering the pre-Vaganova style of classical choreography, on the 19th century means of dance expressiveness, discovering with surprise the origins of both the choreography of George Balanchine and the heritage of August Bournonville in them," says Yuri Fateev, director of the Mariinsky Ballet. "It will be a large-scale premiere, like it was under Marius Petipa."



[La Fille du Pharaon](#) choreographed by Marius Petipa is the first ballet premiere at the Mariinsky Theatre in 2023

Romeo Castellucci staged Richard Strauss' bucolic tragedy *Daphne* at the [Berlin State Opera](#), – [Muzykalnaya Zhizn](#): "The one-act opera *Daphne*, first staged on October 15, 1938, at the Dresden Semperoper by Max Hofmüller under the baton of conductor Karl Böhm, is a hymn to beauty and nature, glorified by Strauss in an incredibly colourful and sophisticated score."



Valentin Serov. A Portrait of Lamanova, 1911

The exhibition *Lamanova. Russian Dress Code* opened at [Zaryadye](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#): "How could a fresh graduate of the Moscow School of Cutting and Sewing open her own sewing workshop at the age of 24? Who sewed dresses for the wife of Nicholas II? Whose costumes are in the Hermitage collection today? These questions are answered by the exhibition, arranged together with the Moscow Art Theatre Museum, opened in the English Courtyard of the Zaryadye Park. Nadezhda Lamanova is an amazing woman who stood at the origins of Russian and Soviet fashion, undeservedly forgotten, but returned to the public thanks to the Museum of the Art Theatre. As they would say now, a self-made woman. /.../ And in total, Lamanova was engaged in 16 productions of the Moscow Art Theatre." The exhibition in Moscow covered by:

[Orpheus](#)

[Teatral](#) and other media.

"An exhibition dedicated to the Russian Coco Chanel has opened at the Poklevsky-Cosell House in Yekaterinburg, the [OTV Channel](#) reports.

"She created outfits for the royal family and dressed the actors of the Moscow Art Theatre. The collection of the fa-



mous fashion designer Nadezhda Lamanova can now be seen in Yekaterinburg. "A couturier from Russia, who sewed outfits for both peasant women and empresses' – on the [Kulturologia RF](#) website



The exhibition Lamanova. Russian Dress Code Photo/[Cultobzor](#)

## DEBUTS

### Il Viaggio A Reims

March 8

[Olga Seliverstova](#) (appeared as Corinna at the premiere performances in 2018) made her debut as Madame Cortese (also on March 10 and 12)



Olga Seliverstova as Madame Cortese. Photo by Damir Yusupov

[Vladislav Popov](#) the Bolshoi Opera soloist since 2023 – Don Profondo (also on March 10 and 12)



Vladislav Popov as Don Profondo. Photo by Damir Yusupov

[Daria Belousova](#) Bolshoi Opera trainee since 2022 – Modestina



Daria Belousova as Modestina. Photo by Damir Yusupov

[Lilit Davtyan](#) Bolshoi YOP member since 2021 – Delia



Lilit Davtyan as Delia. Photo by Damir Yusupov



March 9

[Anna Aglatova](#) as La Contessa di Folleville

[Vasily Sokolov](#) Bolshoi Opera soloist since December 2022 – Don Alvaro

[Yulia Mennibayeva](#) debuts at the Bolshoi as Maddalena

[Ilya Legatov](#) Bolshoi YOP soloist since September 2022 – Don Luigino

[Mark Kim](#) Bolshoi Opera trainee since June 2021, a Bolshoi YOP soloist since 2022 – Zefrino, Gelsomino

[Demyan Onufrak](#) Bolshoi YOP soloist since November 2022 – Antonio

March 11

[Hayk Tigranyan](#) the Armenian Spendaryan GATOB soloist (since 2003) makes his debut at the Bolshoi as Don Profondo



Hayk Tigranyan debuted at the Bolshoi. Photo /the bass' VK page



Il Viaggio A Reims: debuts of March 9. Photo by Damir Yusupov.

## Coppelia

March 11

[Sofia Maymula](#) first appeared as Swanilda

[Elizaveta Kruteleva](#) as L'Aurore

### Grand Pas from the ballet Paquita.

March 3

[Anna Nikulina](#) as Paquita

[Dmitry Smilevsky](#) as Lucien d'Hervilly

[Elizaveta Kruteleva](#) and [Denis Zakharov](#) – Pas de trois



Anna Nikulina and Dmitry Smilevsky debuted in Grand Pas from the ballet Paquita. Elizaveta Kruteleva and Denis Zakharov – Pas de trois. Photo by Damir Yusupov

[Sofia Shatokhina](#) – Soloist (Grand Pas)

[Anastasia Meskova](#) as Seraphina



Anastasia Meskova as Seraphina (debut), Ivan Alexeyev as Don Lopez de Mendoza. Photo by Damir Yusupov

March 4 (12:00)

[Ekaterina Varlamova](#) – Pas de trois





Ekaterina Varlamova – Pas de trois (debut). Photo by Damir Yusupov

March 5

Artemy Belyakov as Lucien d'Hervilly

### Chopiniana

March 3

Eva Sergeyenkova – Prelude, Waltz (12:00)

Arina Denisova – Mazourka, Waltz

Mark Chino – Mazourka, Waltz

March 4 (19:00)

Anastasia Stashkevich – Mazourka, Waltz



Eva Sergeyenkova (debut) and Klim Efimov; Anastasia Stashkevich (debut) and Vyacheslav Lopatin; Arina Denisova (debut) and Mark Chino (debut) in Chopiniana. Photo by Damir Yusupov

## BIRTHDAYS

**March 1** – artist, head of the Bolshoi Costume Department Elena Zaytseva

**March 2** – opera singer (mezzo), National Artist of the USSR Irina Bogachyova (1939–2019)

**March 3** – Bolshoi Opera soloist, Merited Artist of Russia Svetlana Shilova

**March 3** – Bolshoi Opera soloist Yulia Mazurova

**March 4** – Bolshoi Opera soloist Anna Aglatova



Anna Aglatova. Photo / Social Media

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

**March 5** – ballet dancer, ballet-master and tutor, National Artist of the USSR Konstantin Sergeev (1910–1992)

**March 5** – ballet dancer, ballet master, choreographer Kasian Goleizovsky (1892–1970)

**March 5** – musical cinema and TV director, the Bolshoi livestreams director Isabelle Julien

**March 6** – National Artist of the USSR, the Bolshoi Opera soloist in 1916–41 Nadezhda Obukhova (1886–1961)

**March 8** – National Artist of the RSFSR (1961), the Stalin Prize laureate (1949), Bolshoi Opera soloist in 1946–69 Leokadiya Maslennikova – 105th anniversary of her birth



Leokadiya Maslennikova as Tatyana (opera Eugene Onegin by Tchaikovsky), the Bolshoi Theatre, 1949



**March 8** – mezzo [Maria Barakova](#), Bolshoi YOP member in 2017–21, the first prize winner of the major international and domestic vocal competitions: the *16th Glinka Competition* in Kazan and the *16th Tchaikovsky Competition* in Moscow and St Petersburg (2019)



Maria Barakova. Photo by Olga Kovach/ the mezzo's social media

**March 9** – National Artist of Russia, Bolshoi Ballet dancer (works under contract), Bolshoi choreographer-repetiteur [Maria Allash](#)



Maria Allash with her pupils Eleonora Sevenard and Eva Sergeenkova (debut in the main role) after the performance of the ballet *Chopiniana* on March 3 this year. Photo / Social Media

**March 9** – ballerina Tamara Karsavina (1885–1978)

**March 11** – choreographer Marius Ivanovich Petipa (1818–1910) – 205th anniversary of his birth



Michel-Victor-Marius-Alphonse Petipa as Taor (*La Fille du Pharaon*), 1862

**March 12** – National Artist of the USSR, outstanding singer (tenor) [Zurab Sotkilava](#) (1937–2017)



Zurab Sotkilava



March 12 – Bolshoi Ballet principal dancer [Artemy Belyakov](#)

March 12 – Bolshoi Ballet first soloist [Daria Khokhlova](#)



Artemy Belyakov and Daria Khokhlova.  
Photo by Stas Kalashnikov

March 12 – ballet dancer, choreographer, ballet-master and tutor, National Artist of the USSR Vakhtang Chabukiani (1910–1992)

March 12 – Bolshoi conductor [Alexei Bogorad](#)

March 12 – outstanding dancer, choreographer, ballet innovator Vaslav Nijinsky (1889–1950)



Tamara Karsavina and Vaslav Nijinsky in *Le Spectre de la rose*, 1911

March 13 – National Artist of the USSR, Bolshoi Opera soloist since 1966, assistant to the chief conductor – music director of the Bolshoi [Makvala Kasrashvili](#). A brilliant singer, a Bolshoi soloist who has performed a huge number of roles from the soprano repertoire, conquered all major opera venues of the world – Makvala Kasrashvili is also a talented teacher who has trained a whole constellation of opera singers.

The Green Salon: Makvala Kasrashvili – an interview with the National Artist of the USSR (01:08'08", recording of 2018) on the Bolshoi [YouTube](#) channel.

A fragment of the video recording of the evening The Legend of the Bolshoi: National Artist of the USSR, held at the Central House of Actors on November 22 last year – is available on [video hosting](#)



Makvala Kasrashvili. Photo by Alexander Gaiduk / social media

March 13 – Brazilian ballet dancer (in 2015–22 in the Bolshoi ballet company) David Motta Soares



David Motta Soares in *Don Quixote*. Photo / the dancer's social media

**March 15** – theatre designer, painter, set designer, National Artist of the RF [Boris Messerer](#). – 90

**March 15** – National Artist of the USSR, singer, Lenin and Stalin Prize laureate of the II degree, holder of the Order of Merit for the Fatherland, IV degree, professor of the Gnessin Academy – Zara Dolukhanova (1918–2007) – 105th anniversary of her birth



Alisa Poret (1902–1984). Portrait of the singer Zara Dolukhanova, 1963; oil on canvas

**March 17** – outstanding ballet dancer and choreographer Rudolf Nureyev (1938–1993) – 85th anniversary of his birth

**March 18** – Bolshoi Opera soloist Yuri Syrov

**March 18** – ballerina and tutor, l'étoile of the Paris Opera in 1972–83 [Ghislaine Thesmar](#), choreographer Pierre Lacotte's wife – 80



Ghislaine Thesmar, Pierre Lacotte and Rudolf Nureyev

**March 19** – ballerina (1985–2004 – Bolshoi Ballet prima), National Artist of Russia, artistic director of the Georgian Paliashvili Opera Ballet Theatre – Nina Ananiashvili



Nina Ananiashvili in *La Sylphide*

The Bolshoi General Director, on behalf of the whole team, congratulated Nina Ananiashvili on her birthday with a telegram:

"Dear Nina Gedevanovna!

On this happy day, please accept our most sincere congratulations on your birthday!

Your entire career as a ballerina is inextricably linked with the Bolshoi Theatre. Here you have established yourself as a bright original ballerina and for twenty years have been a true decoration of this stage, performing the leading roles in almost all the ballets of the Bolshoi's repertoire. The whole world knows you. You seem to combine the Moscow Ballet School best features – virtuoso technique, acting skills, musicality, and incredible stage presence. Your human qualities match them, too: colleagues have always appreciated your generosity and willingness to help in difficult times. You were so devoted to your teacher Raisa Stepanovna Struchkova until her last minute. It is wonderful that your service to dance continues. Thanks to your organisational skills and artistic vision, you breathed new life into the ancient theatre and revived the traditions of its more than 150-year history – under your leadership, the National Ballet of Georgia flourished and achieved the highest creative success, new talented performers are trained by the Tbilisi Chabukiani Choreographic School.

You tirelessly invite choreographers to work, inspiring directors for world premieres.

May this continue for many more years.

We wholeheartedly wish you health, success, prosperity and joy! Events in your noble commitment to the Art of Dance! Happiness and love to you and your loved ones."

General Director of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia Vladimir Urin