

CONCERT PROGRAM

part I

HANDEL - Overture to "Julius Caesar in Egypt"

- **Caesar's aria: "Presti omai, l'egizia terra"**

- **Sextus' aria: "Svegliatevi nel core"**

Julius Caesar is an opera by George Friderich Handel. It represents a prime example of the noble and serious style of opera of the 18th century, which Handel raised to great heights. The opera clearly showed the musical "handwriting" of the composer - the courageous simplicity of the melodies, the drama of the arias and the expressiveness of the recitatives.

The focus in this interpretation is not on presenting the heroic image of the commander, but rather on the love story between Julius Caesar and Cleopatra, against the background of the war with Egypt. Even during the most unexpected turns of the plot, the brilliance of the voices dominates, with dizzying vocalizations and intoxicating phrasings of melody.

The aria "Presti ormai, l'egizia terra" – marks the triumphal entry of Julius Caesar at the head of his troops in Egypt.

In the first act, Sextus, the son of the defeated Pompey, vows to avenge the death of his father in his **aria "Svegliatevi nel core"**.

MOZART – Ramiro's aria from the opera "La finta giardiniera"

"La finta giardiniera" ("The Pretend Garden-Girl") is a comic opera or opera buffa by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, written in Munich in January 1775, when the composer was only 18 years old. This intricate intrigue, interweaving comic and dramatic motifs is typical for the period with its blend of techniques from the opera buffa and opera seria traditions. The abundance of lyrical episodes all relates to a single topic - everything connected to love has been moulded into music. Despite the author's youth, his genius is fully revealed in this opera, allowing him to anticipate the future and mature creations of his career.

Ramiro, the rejected fiancé of Arminda, sings in his aria, "Se l'augellin sen fugge," that he does not want to fall in love with his former bride a second time.

- Papageno's aria from the opera "The Magic Flute"

Mozart's last opera, "The Magic Flute" has been one of the most-performed operas ever since its first performance in 1791. As the title "Die Zauberflöte" indicates, contrary to the opera canon of the time (requiring only Italian to be used) this is the first opera written and performed originally in German. The "Singspiel," the genre to which it belongs, translates to "singing-play". The Magic Flute tells the story of Prince Tamino, who must pass a series of tests accompanied by his somewhat outlandish assistant, the bird-catcher Papageno, to marry Princess Pamina. Together they fight with Pamina's mother, the evil and mysterious Queen of the Night.

Papageno is musically characterized in the opera by a cheerful **aria, "Der Vogelfänger bin ich ja"** ("beknownst to all, I am the bird-catcher") in the spirit of a folk dance song; after each couplet, the innocent roulades of his pipe sound.

GRIEG - Two Elegiac Melodies for String Orchestra (Op. 34)

“The Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg turned everything he thought about into music. He was convinced that he was being overheard. He even had a clear idea who was eavesdropping on him. They were bluebirds in a tree, wandering sailors from the port, a laundress from a neighbouring house, a cricket, snow falling from a laden sky, and Cinderella in a darned dress. Each of these had their own way of listening ...

Grieg valued these obscure listeners more than the well-dressed and polite audience of his concerts.” K.G. Paustovsky

The two elegiac melodies for string orchestra "The Wounded Heart" and "Spring" are instrumental arrangements of two songs from the collection "12 Melodies" for voice and piano.

SCHUBERT - Songs: Trout, Wanderer, A Son of the Muses

Franz Schubert is among the most famous and successful Austrian composers, mainly based on his vocal miniatures (Lieder), of which he wrote more than six hundred.

The song “Trout” by Franz Schubert was written to the poems of Christian Friedrich Daniel Schubart, a German poet, organist, composer and journalist. In 1777, by the order of Duke Frederick of Württemberg, Schubart was imprisoned in the Hohenasperg fortress.

In in prison, Christian wrote poems, which then formed the basis for this beautiful song by Schubert. The lively melody of a cheerful character is supported by an exquisite accompaniment: a rhythmic figure depicts water bursts and the movement of a trout.

The song Der Wanderer an den Mond (The wanderer's address to the moon) was written in 1826 — like many of Schubert's greatest songs, the melody seems to have always existed, and hearing it for the first time means recognizing something you seem to have always known. In Johann Gabriel Seidl's poem, a wanderer is described, on a restless quest, he has no home, while the soft and quiet moon is at home everywhere.

The song Der Musensohn (“A Son of the Muses”) was written in December 1822; Goethe's lyrics tell us about a singer, who rides on horseback and longs for love. This was one of the most popular songs during Schubert's lifetime.

ROSSINI - Duetto buffo di due gatti (Cat duet)

The Cat Duet or Duetto buffo di due gatti is a comic vocal piece for two voices, depicting two meowing cats. Traditionally, authorship is attributed to Gioachino Rossini, but in reality it is a compilation of three parts: Cat Cavatine by Danish composer Christoph Weiss and two excerpts from Rossini's opera Othello - an excerpt from the duet Othello and Iago and one of the themes of Rodrigo's aria “Ah, come mai non senti.” This compilation was first published in 1825 under the pseudonym of G. Berthold (most likely the English composer Robert Lukas Pearsall). The duet has been repeatedly recorded by the most famous singers of our time.

CONCERT PROGRAM

part II

W.A. MOZART, Overture from the opera "Le Nozze di Figaro"

Many musicians will acknowledge that The Marriage of Figaro is their most beloved opera. And not only, of course, musicians. After all, this is the oldest opera in the repertoire of almost every ensemble in the western world, delighting millions of listeners. Who, in fact, will remain indifferent to Cherubino and Susanna, who cannot be captured by Figaro, so elegant, though less energetic, than Rossini's barber?

"Non piu andrai" – Figaro's aria, which he sings for the young page Cherubino. The passionate page of Count Almaviva is constantly in love with one girl or another.

W.A. Mozart "Don-Juan" – is arguably the greatest opera ever written. In support of this thesis, at least three people had a special right to have their opinion heard - Gioachino Rossini, Charles Gounod and Richard Wagner.

Duo of Zerlina and Don Juan

Don-Juan is struck by the beauty of this pretty girl and in a very elegant duet "La ci darem la mano" - "Come, Zerlina, give me your hand" invites her to his castle.

Don Juan's aria "Finch'han dal vino", the so-called "Champagne Aria", in which Don Juan looks forward to his new amorous conquests at the upcoming celebration.

W.A.Mozart "Idomeneus, King of Crete." Overture.

The plot is based on the ancient Greek myth of the King of Crete, Idomeneus, a participant in the Trojan War, to which he set off at the head of a powerful fleet.

G.ROSSINI - Cavatina Figaro from the opera The Barber of Seville

Figaro, the barber, singing to himself for joy and telling us how indispensable he is to everyone in the city. This bragging is, of course, the wonderful Cavatina "Largo al factotum"

J. Strauss II – couplets from "Die Fledermaus"

Strauss' "Die Fledermaus" is probably the most famous operetta of all times. It is the masterpiece of the so-called Golden Era of Vienna. The story is about the revenge between two friends for an old prank. The main action takes place at a feast in the palace of the Russian prince Orlofsky, and the couplet "chaqu'un a son gout" is sung by this prince to present his peculiar opinions about drinking and having fun at a party.

R. Stolz – “Ob blond, ob braun”

Robert Stolz was a most productive composer of operettas, film music, chansons, songs and cabaret. Born in Austria, he lived and worked throughout a major part of the 20th century. The Song “Ob blond, ob braun” written for the movie “I love all women” is about the fact that most people have preferences in hair color and why the singer himself does not care about these differences.

I. Kalman – Duet of Silva and Edvin from the Operetta “Silva”

The Hungarian-born Imre Kálmán was the most prolific representative of the so called Bronze Era of Operetta (after Strauß in the Golden and Lehár in the Silver Era). The story of his “The Csardas Princess” or “Silva” is the typical operetta plot of love, renouncement, seemingly insuperable class differences and finally a Happy End. And the duet “I want to dance, I want to cheer” is sung by the protagonists at the turning point, when it becomes clear that all the obstacles for this Happy End are overcome.



ПРИ ПОДДЕРЖКЕ МИНИСТЕРСТВА КУЛЬТУРЫ,
ИНФОРМАЦИИ И ТУРИЗМА КР



ÖSTERREICHISCHE
BOTSCHAFT
ASTANA

WORLD OPERA MASTERPIECES

Adrian Eröd, baritone

Heidemaria Oberthür, mezzo-soprano

Orkhan Hashimov, conductor

Manas Presidential Chamber Orchestra,
artistic director and chief conductor

Ernis Asanaliev