

# theatre.slovak

## Opera

### World Repertoire

Russian opera traditionally occupied a strong position in the Slovak opera life, particularly Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin that essentially never left our opera stage since 1920. Italian opera has been the most popular part of the opera repertoire among our audiences as well as in the world, particularly the works of Giuseppe Verdi and Giacomo Puccini. The Slovak National Theatre and the State Opera in Banská Bystrica have a long tradition of staging the bel canto style operas of Gioacchino Rossini and Gaetano Donizetti. On all three of these stages, operas of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart are a fixture. Charles Gounod and particularly his most important opera *Faust and Marguerite* became a series of staging milestones in the history of the Slovak opera theatre. Almost every production was a significant theatrical event. Starting with the first plays of directors Josef Peršl and Viktor Šulc in the early days of the Slovak National Theatre, through the expressionist mood of the Košice production directed by Kornel Hájek, the ground-breaking and for many shocking play of Jozef Bednárík, to the last version – in the philosophical introverted execution by the Lithuanian Gintaras Varnas in the Slovak National Theatre.

**Charles Gounod: FAUST AND MARGUERITE**  
State Theatre Košice 31 May 1958  
Directed by Kornel Hájek  
Musical direction Boris Velat  
From left Anna Poláková, Anton Matejček  
Photo Mária Litavská/Theatre Institute Archive



**Charles Gounod: FAUST AND MARGUERITE**  
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 28 June 1989  
Directed by Jozef Bednárík  
Musical direction Oliver Dohnányi  
Ján Galla and the Choir of the Slovak National Theatre Opera  
Photo Theatre Institute Archive



**Giuseppe Verdi: LA TRAVIATA**  
Jozef Gregor Tajovský Theatre – Opera Banská Bystrica (today State Opera Banská Bystrica) 14 December 1968  
Directed by Drahomíra Bargárová  
Musical direction Vojtech Javora  
Oskár Korbela, Edita Gruberová  
Photo Karol Mikláši/Theatre Institute Archive



**Giuseppe Verdi: AROLDO**  
Jozef Gregor Tajovský Theatre – Opera Banská Bystrica (today State Opera Banská Bystrica) 19 January 1993  
Directed by Martin Bendik  
Musical direction Pavol Tužinský  
From left Mária Tomanová, Gurgen Ovsepjan  
Photo Theatre Institute Archive



**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: COSI FAN TUTTE**  
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 18 December 1971  
Directed by Karel Jernek  
Musical direction Zdeněk Košler  
From left Ružena Stúrová, Magdaléna Hajóssyová  
Photo Pavol Breier/Theatre Institute Archive



**Claude Debussy: PELLÉAS AND MÉLISANDE**  
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 9 May 1995  
Directed by Miroslav Fischer  
Musical direction Jean-Paul Penin  
From left Jana Valášková, Francis Dudziak  
Photo Katarína Marečinová/Theatre Institute Archive



**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: EUGENE ONEGIN**  
State Theatre Košice 19 November 1966  
Directed by Václav Věžník  
Musical direction Boris Velat  
From left Helena Gmučová, Miroslav Hájek  
Photo Mária Litavská/Theatre Institute Archive



**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: EUGENE ONEGIN**  
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 16 September 2005  
Directed by Peter Konwitschny  
Musical direction Pavol Selecký  
From left Pavol Remenár, Natalia Ushakova  
Photo Alena Klenková/Theatre Institute Archive



**Christoph Willibald Gluck: ORPHEUS AND EURYDICE**  
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 5 December 2008  
Directed by Mariusz Trelński  
Musical direction Jaroslav Kyzlink  
From left Pavol Remenár, Helena Becse-Szabó,  
Choir of the Slovak National Theatre Opera  
Photo Jozef Barinka/Theatre Institute Archive

