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JANÁČEK BRNO 2020 7th international opera and music festival 28. 9. – 16. 10. 2020

Janáček Brno 2020 – twenty-eight top productions in nineteen days. Leading world directors and performers such as Robert Carsen, Claus Guth, Jakub Hrůša, Karita Mattila, Pavol Brešlík, the Pavel Haas Quartet, the Bamberger Symphoniker and others will present a programme whose theme touches on the artistic turmoil that raged at the turn of the 20th century and the search for new directions in the musical expression of opera and instrumental works.

The 7th edition of the Janáček Brno festival, Janáček Brno 2020, will take place from **28. 9. – 16. 10. 2020**. It is a follow-up to the extraordinarily successful previous versions of this prestigious biennial: Janáček Brno 2018 was the first festival in the Czech Republic to receive the award for Best Festival at the prestigious International Opera Awards.

“National Theatre Brno and its festival have come to stand in the illustrious company of the very best artists and ensembles in the whole opera world. After only 6 editions of the festival this is an almost unbelievable success...” Martin Glaser, Director of National Theatre Brno, said.

The celebratory opening of the festival will be devoted to Janáček’s opera *Destiny*. It is less frequently performed than many of his other works, but was a significant step in the composer’s journey to seek out a new approach to modern opera. The production will be created specially for the festival by the internationally renowned director Robert Carsen in cooperation with the ensemble of the Janáček Opera, National Theatre Brno, and with music direction by chief conductor Marko Ivanović. Another top production, Janáček’s breakthrough opera *Jenůfa*, will be performed by Brno’s opera ensemble in cooperation with the London Royal Opera House (Covent Garden), where the production by director Claus Guth will have its premiere in March 2020. Robert Kružík will be in charge of the Brno version. One of the main aims of the festival is to present various perspectives on Janáček’s work via its staging by both Czech and foreign ensembles. This time, spectators will have the rare opportunity to compare two productions of *Jenůfa*, as the foreign guests will include a German ensemble from Bremen, which will also perform Janáček’s most famous opera. The Hungarian State Opera’s production of *Salome* by Richard Strauss will provide an interesting contrast with Janáček’s work. It was performed for the first time in the same year as Janáček’s *Destiny* was created.

Destiny and Jenůfa will come to life in the hands of world-famous theatre directors Robert Carsen and Claus Guth. Their cooperation with our ensemble will undoubtedly result in some remarkable artistic events. The festival will also welcome several leading performers of Janáček roles, for all of them the Finnish soprano Karita Mattila. Theater Bremen’s production of Jenůfa will allow us to compare two interpretations of the same work, and I also look forward to the Budapest State Opera ensemble with their new production, Salome, which will certainly show the contrast between the musical orientations of those two master composers from the beginning of the 20th century, Richard Strauss and Leoš Janáček. The festival will also present many other stars, among others the tenor Pavol Brešlík and the conductor Jakub Hrůša with the Bamberger Symphoniker. There is a lot to look forward to.

Jiří Heřman, Artistic Director of the Janáček Opera, National Theatre Brno

As is traditional, the concert programme will be extremely varied. The end of the festival will feature an excellent orchestra, the Bamberger Symphoniker, which is conducted by Jakub Hrůša. Spectators can look forward to Tomáš Král and Pavel Brešlík’s song recitals along with Jan Bartoš and Jan Jiraský’s piano recitals, and there will also be choir performances delivered by Austria’s excellent Arnold

Schoenberg Chor and the Prague Philharmonic Choir. As far as chamber ensembles are concerned, the Zemlinsky Quartet, Philharmonia Octet Prague, the Brno Contemporary Orchestra and the Josef Suk Piano Quartet will all make an appearance, among others.

The first two decades of the 20th century constitute one of the most astounding periods in the history of music. During this time, established rules that had been generally accepted for centuries began to lose their force, and the thought and values of romanticism faded away. At the same time, something new arose, something that often radically rejected all that was old, or which reflected traditional values via novel means. It was a time in which much passed away, yet much was born. It is the music of exactly this time, by such greats as Richard Strauss, Claude Debussy, Gustav Mahler, Arnold Schönberg, Igor Stravinsky and Béla Bartók, that will be presented within the festival programme in contrast with that of another iconic figure of this period – Leoš Janáček,” said Jiří Zahrádka, member of the Artistic Committee of the Janáček Brno festival, in connection with the conceptual ideas behind the concert programme.

Advance festival ticket sales commence on **1. 12. 2019**. You can thus book the best festival seats for the best prices well before the festival starts. All information about the festival, along with the option of purchasing tickets on-line, can be found on the web pages www.janacek-brno.cz

Main sales points: Customer Centre, National Theatre Brno, Dvořákova 11, Brno

Tel.: +420 542 158 120, email: obchodni@ndbrno.cz

Online advance sales: www.janacek-brno.cz

THE JANÁČEK BRNO 2020 FESTIVAL PASS GIVES YOU A 25% DISCOUNT WHEN PURCHASING TICKETS FOR 3 OR MORE PERFORMANCES. WHEN PURCHASING TICKETS FOR 5 OR MORE PERFORMANCES A DISCOUNT OF 30% APPLIES.

The festival is taking place with the financial support of the Statutory City of Brno, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the Leoš Janáček Foundation and the South Moravian Region. The main partners of the festival are VARS BRNO a.s. and the Bohemian Heritage Fund.

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7th international opera and music festival

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THE COMPLETE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME IS IN THE PROGRAMME BROCHURE