

World opera stars in Bratislava

The capital of Bratislava has various names. One name that our Beauty on the Danube certainly deserves is The City of Music. True to this tradition, the city is becoming the meeting point of the world stars of the opera thanks to the ambitious agency KAPOŠ.

A rich musical tradition lives today in the concert halls and two opera houses of Bratislava, or at the festivals with first class musicians. The opera in particular attracts many visitors not only from our home country but also from abroad. It has already become a tradition for Austrians to visit the opera houses in Bratislava because the repertoire and the quality of the productions and performances is at an international level.

If we remain within the field of classical music, state institutions such as the Slovak Philharmonic

and the Slovak National Theatre primarily organize the music program. In recent times, more and more private agencies have been coming with their offers, focusing mainly on opera legends such as Plácido Domingo or José Carreras.

Kapos brings the singer elite

Recently, the relatively new KAPOŠ agency came with an offer of the great opera singers of today to give the Slovak and international public the chance to see the world stars of contemporary opera. In February 2011, the agency

Kapos impressed Bratislava with a concert of one of the best bel canto tenors of all time, the Peruvian Juan Diego Flórez, designated by the famous Luciano Pavarotti himself as his successor. The sold out opera house, despite very expensive ticket prices, testified that the offer hit the heart of opera lovers not only from Bratislava but also from neighboring countries. With the concert of the coloratura queen Cecilia Bartoli's internationally awarded project *Sacrificium* in October of the same year, the agency confirmed the highest ambitions.

Brownlee kills Donizetti in Bratislava

In June 2012, the memorable concert of the American tenor Lawrence Brownlee, the rising star of the Metropolitan Opera, wrote another chapter of the successful development of the agency. For the first time ever on a Slovak stage the public could hear the most famous aria *Ah, mes amis!* (G. Donizetti: *La Fille du Regiment*), which has been called the "Mount Everest" for tenors,

with nine high C's, twice – in the program of the concert and as an encore!

Some historians have written that Donizetti didn't like tenors, hence why he composed the voice-killing aria with nine high C's. Brownlee managed in Bratislava to sing this aria twice. By singing 2x9 high C's we can say that he killed Donizetti. We are very thankful to the big maestro for this operatic jewel.

Russian Nightingale and great Polish voices

The next opera star of the Kapos agency was the Russian coloratura soprano Olga Peretyatko, hailed by many as the successor of Anna Netrebko, often called the Nightingale for her sweet voice and technical agility. Her highly acclaimed concert in March of this year was one of the steps she took towards the Metropolitan, where she will perform *Elvira* in Vincenzo Bellini "I Puritani" in April next year. By her side was well-known tenor Lawrence Brownlee as Arturo and the Polish baritone Mariusz Kwiecien as Riccardo.

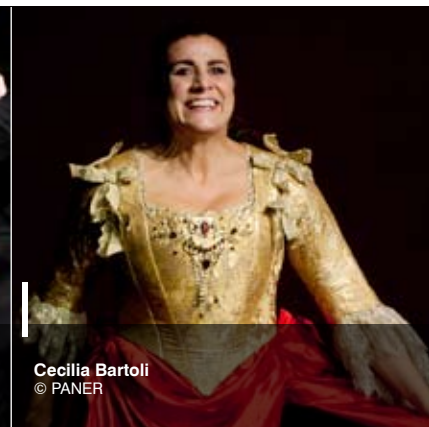
With Mariusz Kwiecien, we again hosted a memorable music event. One of the flagship singers at the Metropolitan Opera for 14 years, famous for his emblematic image of Don Giovanni, captivated the audience in the



Joyce DiDonato
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Juan Diego Flórez
© PANER



Cecilia Bartoli
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Bratislava Philharmonic Hall in his concert last June with his charming interpretation of the famous baritone arias, with Slovak soprano Simona Houda Šaturová. His charm and convincing performance of the roles, supported by a strong voice with a nice timbre, are the reasons why the big opera houses like to engage him alongside the soprano queen Anna Netrebko in their productions. It's also the case for the newest production of the MET, "Eugene Onegin". He will sing the title role, Anna Netrebko the pure and incorrupt Tatyana, and the Polish tenor Piotr Beczala the unhappy Lensky.

Piotr Beczala is the next great tenor who will enrich the concert life in Bratislava. He is acknowledged as one of the most vocally exciting, impressive, and sought-after lyric tenors of our time. The Polish-born artist is repeatedly acclaimed by audiences and critics alike for not only the beauty of his voice, but also for his ardent commitment to each character he portrays. He is at home on the stages of the most famous opera houses in the world and will sing in the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava on April 25, 2014.

As we see, the Kapos agency chooses the crème de la crème of



Thomas Hampson & Luca Pisaroni
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the operatic world in order to bring the best to the Slovak audience. It is also true for the two concerts in the final months of this year.

Great American singers coming

The first will be on November 7, 2013, with the great American mezzo-soprano Joyce DiDonato, with her multi-awarded project Drama Queens - Grammy and Echo Klassik 2013, and Musical America's Vocalist of the year 2013 - supported by Il Complesso Barocco, one of the best chamber orchestras in the world. The soloist of the Metropolitan Opera will sing her aria recital of Baroque queens and princesses from G. F. Händel, A. Vivaldi, Ch. Gluck, C. Monteverdi, D. Scarlati, G.

Giacomelli, G. M. Orlandini, A. Cesti, J. A. Hasse and G. Porta.

The second upcoming highlight will be the concert of a father and son-in-law, the American baritone Thomas Hampson and the Italian bass-baritone Luca Pisaroni, on December 4, 2013. The two world-renowned singers will lead the audience through a gallery of opera characters, which the "Kings of the High - C's" cannot portray. That's why the program of the concert has the title "No Tenors Allowed". They will introduce themselves as devoted friends (Marquis Posa), rulers (Phillip II. and King Herod), devils (Mephistopheles), and the most famous operatic embodiment of evil (Iago)... Most composers

UPCOMING CONCERTS 2013

**November 7, 2013
at 7.30 p.m.**
American mezzo-soprano
JOYCE DIDONATO
Orchestra:
Il Complesso Barocco
*The Slovak National Theatre,
Bratislava, new building*

**December 4, 2013
at 7.30 p.m.**
American baritone
& Italian bass-baritone
**THOMAS HAMPSON
& LUCA PISARONI**
PKF - Prague Philharmonia
Conductor: Julian Kovačev
*The Slovak National Theatre,
Bratislava, new building*

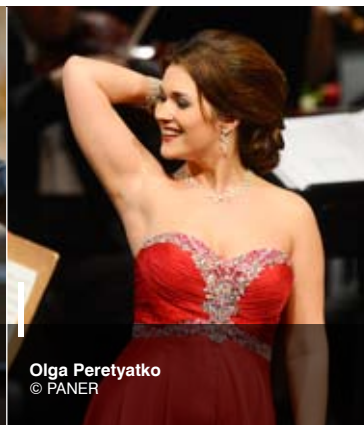
devoted the roles of lovers to tenors; yet, the most famous seducer of all times, Mozart's Don Giovanni, is a baritone...

Meet friends and partners

The agency aims to attract culture oriented foreigners living in Slovakia to their concerts as well. The concerts of Joyce DiDonato and Thomas Hampson & Luca Pisaroni are must-sees for Americans. The period of the year for these events is also the time of meetings with partners, clients, and friends. A concert by a world-class opera singer is a good opportunity to give to such meetings higher value and create an unforgettable experience. In collaboration with the Sheraton Hotel Bratislava, we have prepared special offers for a pre-concert dinner or even accommodation for visitors not living in Bratislava. More and updated information is available on the [webpage www.kapos.sk/en](http://www.kapos.sk/en).



Lawrence Brownlee
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Olga Peretyatko
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Mariusz Kwiecien
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Jan Korecky
Founder and owner of
KAPOS

