



Introduction of Opera Gala Concert





Opera Gala Concert

October 9, 2008 Thursday 19:30

Forbidden City Concert Hall



北京国际音乐节
Beijing Music Festival

Program

Wagner: Ouverture Meistersinger
Mannruf from Gotterdammerung
(Kurt Rydl, baritone)

Siegfried's Rheinfahrt and Trauermarsch

Intermission 1

Verdi: Overture Nabucco
Verdi: Arie and scene of Abigaille from Nabucco
(Maria Guleghina, soprano)

Verdi: Arie and Cabaletta of Manrico from Trovatore
(Salvatore Licitra, tenor)

Intermission 2

Puccini: Tosca 3rd Act OR Finale of André Chénier
(Guleghina & Licitra)

Deutsche Oper Berlin

Kurt Rydl, Singers

Maria Guleghina, Soprano

Salvatore Licitra, Tenor

TBD, Conductor



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Deutsche Oper Berlin

- Ø On September 24, 1961 the stage was reopened as Deutsche Oper Berlin. Originally it had been inaugurated in 1912 - but heavily damaged during World War II. Ever since it has been Berlin's largest and Germany's second largest music theatre, featuring among the most modern institutions in Europe. The minimalistic and elegant building that was designed by Fritz Bornemann (who was also the architect of Berlin's America Memorial Library and Freie Volksbühne) seats 1.865 and guarantees a maximum viewing and hearing experience for every visitor.
- Ø The House on Bismarckstraße has always been ideal for the operas of the 19th and early 20th century with its demand for big orchestras : Wagner, Verdi, Puccini and Strauss. Internationally acclaimed soloists and conductors , an outstanding ensemble of singers, choir and orchestra musicians together with renowned directors have ensured the House's eminent position in the music world. 112 world premieres in nearly a hundred years cemented the House's reputation as contemporary opera venue. Among the important Musical Directors were Bruno Walter in the 1920s, Lorin Maazel in the 1960s and Christian Thielemann in the 1990s. The stage was significantly shaped by General Director Götz Friedrich (a student of the legendary Walter Felsenstein) between 1981 and 2000; his impact is tangible even today.
- Ø A new Team for a New Opera: Since the 2006/07 season Kirsten Harms as the General Director is responsible for the artistic profile and a generational transition on every level of the House. In August 2009 the Wagner- and Strauss-expert Donald Runnicles will start as General Musical Director. Besides Vienna and Munich, the Deutsche Oper features a unique repertory of about 70 opera productions. This repertory contains a large range of visual styles and is carefully nurtured. Kirsten Harms engages young directors and experienced masters of the theater for all her new productions. Project Grand Opera: Discoveries of lost or banned works from the first half of the 20th century lend a special note to the programme's profile and expand the core repertory of opera. The utmost in artistic perfection and courageous innovation have a tradition at the Deutsche Oper Berlin.



Kurt Rydl, Baritone

Ø Kurt Rydl is one of the greatest bass singers of our time. Born in Vienna, he studied in Vienna and Moscow. He won 1st prize at competitions in Barcelona and Paris. 1972-1977 initial engagements in Linz and Stuttgart Since 1976 permanent member of the Vienna State Opera. 1986 Awarded the title of "Kammersnger", 1999 Made honorary member of the Vienna State Opera, 2001 Awarded the Austrian Medal of Honour, 1st class for Art & Science. His opera repertoire comprises more than 80 roles in German, Italian, French, Russian and Czech works. His concert repertoire ranges from Mozart to Penderecki, from Beethoven to Mahler. A true Viennese, he endeavours to keep the traditional "Wiener Lied" alive and also enjoys singing musical songs (e.g. "If I were a rich man"). He took the initiative to record the CD Christmas with World Stars with the Three Tenors and other well-known artists. This recording is just one of more than 30 CDs, which will convince you of the quality of Kurt Rydl's voice. (See also Discography). Since 1972 he has been giving 90 - 100 performances per season. He has made guest appearances at all the world's most famous opera houses. Festivals: Bayreuth, Bregenz, Edinburgh, Munich, Salzburg, Verona.



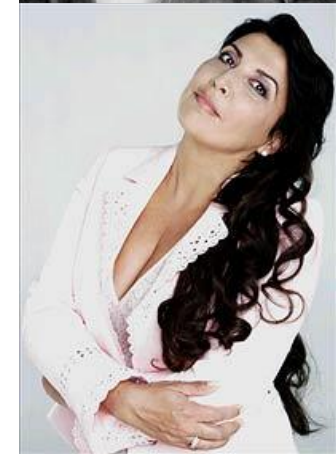
Maria Guleghina, Soprano

- Ø Maria Guleghina is one of the most celebrated and acclaimed sopranos of the world. Her performances are invariably rewarded with standing ovations throughout the world's foremost opera houses. She has been described as the "Cinderella from Russia", "Russian soprano with Verdi flowing through her veins" and "Vocal Miracle". She is particularly noted for her interpretation of the title role in Tosca. Her repertoire also includes the title role in Aida, Manon Lescaut, Norma, Fedora, as well as Lady Macbeth in Macbeth, Abigaille in Nabucco, Leonora in Il Trovatore, Oberto and La Forza del Destino, Elvira in Ernani, Elisabetta in Don Carlo, Amelia in Simon Boccanegra, and Un Ballo in Maschera, Lucrezia in I due Foscari, Desdemona in Otello, Santuzza in Cavalleria Rusticana, Maddalena in Andrea Chenier, Lisa in Pique Dame and Odabella in Attila.
- Ø Maria Guleghina began her professional career at the State Opera in Minsk, and a year later made her debut in La Scala as Amelia in Un Ballo in Maschera under Maestro Gavazzeni opposite Luciano Pavarotti. Her voice of great power, warmth, thrust and with immense acting ability made her a permanent and welcome guest everywhere. At La Scala she has performed Lucrezia in I due Foscari, Tosca, Fedora, Lady Macbeth in Macbeth, Lisa in Pique Dame, Manon Lescaut, Abigaille in Nabucco and Leonora in La Forza del Destino conducted by Riccardo Muti in Tokyo. She has accompanied La Scala on two tours to Japan in 1991 and 1999 on which she also performed solo recitals at this world's renowned theatre.
- Ø Since her 1991 debut at the Metropolitan Opera as Maddalena in a new production of Andrea Chenier opposite Luciano Pavarotti, she has returned there many times as Tosca, Santuzza in Cavalleria Rusticana, Aida, Abigaille in Nabucco, Dolly in Sly opposite Placido Domingo and Giorgetta in Il Tabarro.
- Ø In 1991 she made her Vienna State Opera debut in Andrea Chenier and has returned to perform Lisa in Pique Dame, Tosca, Aida, Elvira in Ernani, Lady Macbeth in Macbeth, Leonora in Il Trovatore and Abigaille in Nabucco.



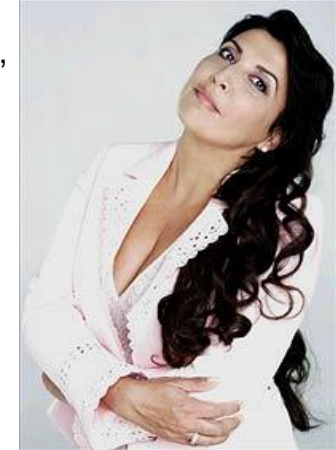
Maria Guleghina, Soprano

- Ø Before her 1995 stage debut in the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden where she performed the title role in Fedora opposite Placido Domingo, she had already performed in a critically acclaimed concert performance of Ernani at the Barbican with the Royal Opera House company. This was followed by a highly successful recital at the Wigmore Hall. Her other appearances at Covent Garden include Tosca, concert performances of Andrea Chenier, Odabella in Attila and most recently Lady Macbeth in Macbeth
- Ø In 1996 Maria Guleghina's debut in Arena di Verona was as Abigaille in Nabucco where she was awarded the "Prize of Giovanni Zanatello" for a sensational debut performer. She has since performed there on numerous occasions.
- Ø In 1997 Maria Guleghina made her Paris Opera debut with the title role in Tosca and has since been seen in this theatre as Lady Macbeth in Macbeth, Abigaille in Nabucco and Odabella in Attila.
- Ø Maria Guleghina has a long standing relationship with Japan, a country where she has become very well known. In 1990 Ms. Guleghina performed Leonora in Il Trovatore, and recorded Otello there with Renato Bruson under the baton of Gustav Kuhn. In 1996 she returned to Japan for performances of Il Trovatore at the National Opera. She subsequently performed Tosca with the Metropolitan Opera in Japan and in the same year took part in the inauguration of the New National Theatre of Tokyo in a new production of Aida by Franco Zeffirelli. In 1999 and 2000 Maria Guleghina gave two solo recital tours in Japan and recorded two solo CDs. She also toured to Japan with La Scala as Leonora in La Forza del Destino and with the Washington Opera as Tosca. And most recently Maria Guleghina successfully performed her world debut as Violetta in La Traviata.
- Ø Maria Guleghina has performed solo recitals all over the world including appearances at La Scala, Gran Teatre del Liceu, Lille, Sao Paolo, Carnegie Hall, Wigmore Hall, Suntory Hall, Osaka, Kyoto, Hong Kong, Rome and Moscow to name a few.
- Ø Many of the productions in which she has appeared have been broadcast on the radio as well as televised. They include Tosca, Pique Dame, Andrea Chenier, Sly and Nabucco from the Metropolitan Opera, Tosca, Manon Lescaut and Un Ballo in Maschera from La Scala, Attila from Paris Opera, Nabucco from the Vienna State Opera and solo recitals from Japan, Barcelona, Moscow and Leipzig.



Maria Guleghina, Soprano

- Ø She has appeared with the world's leading singers and conductors including Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, Leo Nucci, Renato Bruson, Jose Cura and Samuel Ramey, Gianandrea Gavazzeni, Riccardo Muti, James Levine, Zubin Mehta, Fabio Luisi, Claudio Abbado and Daniel Oren.
- Ø Some highlights of her recent engagements include a series of Verdi concerts with the Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon as well as the title role in Norma at the Santander and La Coruña Festival, Abigail, Maddalena and Tosca, at the Vienna State Opera. Elena in I Vespri Siciliani at the Washington Opera as part of their 50 th Anniversary. Performances of Nabucco and Tosca with Valery Gegiev as part of "Stars at White Nights" Festival at the Mariinsky Theatre, concert performances of il Trovatore in Miami. Manon Lescaut at the Liceu in Barcelona and Cavalleria Rusticana, Tosca and Il Tabarro at the Metropolitan.
- Ø Ms Guleghina's future engagements include a new production of Macbeth, Norma, Pique Dame, Adriana Lecouvreur and Turandot at the Metropolitan Opera, Aida and Nabucco at the Arena di Verona Turandot and Cavalleria Rusticana at the Liceu in Barcelona, a new Production of Nabucco at the Bayerische Staats Oper, etc.
- Ø Ms. Guleghina is the recipient of the Giovanni Zanatello Prize for her debut at the Arena di Verona, Maria Zamboni gold medal, 1999 gold medal at the Osaka Festival, 2001 Bellini Prize, and the Arte e Operosita nel mondo prize from Milan. Maria Guleghina has been awarded the orden of Holy Olga, the Highest Orden of the Russian orthodox Church by Patriarch Alexis of Russia. Recently she has also been appointed on the Honorary Board of the International Paralympics Committee.
- Ø Recent media releases include a DVD of Andrea Chenier from Teatro Comunale di Bologna (TDK), a DVD of Macbeth from the Liceu in Barcelona (Opus Arte), the Metropolitan Opera's DVD of Nabucco with James Levine (DG), etc. Her recent Audio Releases include a live concert recording of Verismo arias „Passion of Verismo" (TMR) and a recording of Rachmaninov Romances "Passion of Rachmaninov" (TMR).



Salvatore Licitra, Tenor

- ∅ The tenor Salvatore Licitra was Luigi, and he was robust and heroic - meeting the expectations that the world has set for him. Jay Nordlinger, New York Sun, 23 April 2007
- ∅ Salvatore Licitra has the glamour and ardour in his voice. The raw material of his big, Italian tenor is...impressive. Financial Times, 6 July 2007
- ∅ Licitra has matured into one of the great tenors of today, equipped with intelligence, high notes, power and a feisty stage manner. Bloomberg News 24 April 2007
- ∅ Salvatore Licitra ist ein Phänomen. Keine Rolle ist ihm zu schwer. Und Spitzentöne schüttelt er ohnehin mit einer unfassbaren Leichtigkeit aus dem Ärmel. Peter Jarolin, Kurier (Vienna), 25 May 2007
- ∅ Licitra setzt sein geschmeidiges, warm leuchtendes Tenortimbre kultiviert ein, seine Attacken haben Leidenschaft, man spürt den Frei- und Schöngeist. Karlheinz Roschitz, Neue Kronenzeitung (Vienna), 24 May 2007
- ∅ It only took Italian Salvatore Licitra a couple of years to establish himself in the highly sought-after Italian dramatic tenor repertory. A frequent guest at major opera and concert stages in Europe, the United States and Japan, his repertory includes Verdi's Aida, Un Ballo in Maschera, La Forza del destino and Il Trovatore as well as Puccini's Tosca, Bellini's Norma, Cilea's Adriana Lecouvreur, Giordano's Andrea Chenier and Mascagni's Cavalleria Rusticana. Last season Mr. Licitra gave no less than four major role debuts at leading opera houses: Verdi's Ernani in Berlin and Don Carlos in Los Angeles plus Leoncavallo's I Pagliacci and Puccini's Il Tabarro at the Metropolitan Opera. The latter, a new production conducted by Maestro James Levine, was broadcast live into movie theaters around the world.



Salvatore Licitra, Tenor

- Ø Salvatore Licitra's 2007-08 season begins with a new production of Giordani's *Andrea Chenier* at Opernhaus Zürich as well as three house debuts at the Hamburg State Opera and Catania's Teatro Bellini -- both in Puccini's *Tosca* -- as well as at Bilbao's ABOA in Verdi's *Aida*. Thereafter, the Swiss-born tenor returns to the Metropolitan Opera in December for holiday performances of Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* led by Maestro Gianandrea Nosedà. In 2008, Mr. Licitra goes to the Vienna State Opera for a new production of *La forza del Destino* under the musical direction of Maestro Zubin Mehta.
- Ø Noted as a communicative artist on the concert and recital stage, Mr. Licitra will undertake next spring an Asian tour bringing him to Shanghai, Taiwan, Seoul and Tokyo. Returning thereafter to North America, he will be heard in concert performances of *La Forza del destino* at the Cincinnati Spring Festival conducted by Maestro James Conlon, *Cavalleria Rusticana* at Washington National Opera conducted by Plácido Domingo, a gala concert conducted by Marco Armiliato in Miami as well as in recital at the University of California at Santa Barbara with Warren Jones. Thereafter, he appears at the 2008 Vienna Festival followed by a highly anticipated return to the Deutsche Oper Berlin for a gala arias concert, Renato Palumbo conducting.
- Ø Summer 2008 finds Mr. Licitra concertizing in Germany and the United States. His Boston Symphony debut at Tanglewood will be a concert performance of *Norma* with Renée Fleming and Maestro James Levine. At the start of the 2008-09 season he appears in a new Los Angeles Opera production of *Il Tabarro* and concert performances of *La Forza del destino* with Maestro Conlon and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He will also appear in the title role of a new production of *Il Trovatore* at the Metropolitan Opera.



Salvatore Licitra, Tenor

- Ø Mr. Licitra's engagements have taken him to the Vienna State Opera, Opernhaus Zürich, Munich's Bayerische Staatsoper, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Teatro alla Scala, London's Royal Opera, Paris Opera Bastille Staatsoper Berlin, the opera companies of Rome, Naples, Lisbon, Oslo, Turin and as well as to the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Washington National Opera and Los Angeles Opera in North America.
- Ø An exclusive artist for Sony/BMG Masterworks, his discography includes *Il Trovatore* and *Tosca* (both conducted by Maestro Riccardo Muti), two solo albums of Verdi, Puccini and verismo arias and the soundtrack of "The Man Who Cried". This season also sees the DVD release of *Aida* from the Opernhaus Zürich.
- Ø Salvatore Licitra was born in Bern, Switzerland and studied in Parma where in 1998 he made his debut at the Teatro Regio in *Un Ballo in Maschera*. He garnered international attention later that year when he unexpectedly inaugurated the 1998 Arena di Verona, again in *Ballo*. The following year Maestro Riccardo Muti brought him to La Scala for a new production of *La Forza del Destino*. In May 2002 Mr. Licitra stepped in on short notice for Luciano Pavarotti at the Metropolitan Opera where the legendary tenor's was scheduled to sing his operatic farewell in *Tosca*. A sold-out theater plus 3,000 additional fans watching a live relay on the Lincoln Center Plaza gave the debutante a prolonged standing ovation. AP predicted "For Salvatore Licitra, it's just the beginning" hailing the debut as "the most triumphant" in recent memory."
- Ø Mr. Licitra makes his home in Lugano and New York.





Welcome to Beijing Music Festival

