PRESS RELEASE



SILVIA HRONCOVÁ

Director of the National Theatre Opera and State Opera

opera

The best contemporary Heldentenor Andreas Schager to appear at the State Opera Orchestra's Beethoven-Berg-Wagner concert

Prague, 7 November 2017

Opera lovers can look forward to the special Beethoven-Berg-Wagner concert, scheduled to take place on 16 November 2017 at 7 pm at the Forum Karlín in Prague. The programme includes the entire Act 1 of Richard Wagner's opera *Die Walküre*, starring the celebrated Austrian Heldentenor Andreas Schager (Siegmund), the superlative American soprano Meagan Miller (Sieglinde) and the brilliant Slovak bass Peter Mikuláš (Hunding). The State Opera Orchestra will be conducted by Andreas Sebastian Weiser, the music director of the State Opera. The evening's programme also encompasses Beethoven's *Leonore Overture 1*, Op. 138, and Berg's *Violin Concerto*, which will be performed by the gifted Austrian violinist Lidia Baich.

Andreas Schager is hailed as the very finest Heldentenor of the present time. He will arrive in Prague upon the invitation of the National Theatre. "We are happy to have continuously succeeded in welcoming artists of global renown. Such towering figures as Plácido Domingo, José Cura and Yusif Eyvazov not only have enthusiastically accepted our invitations, they have even returned to Prague, wishing to continue to work with us," said Silvia Hroncová, the director of the National Theatre Opera and the State Opera.

Opera houses worldwide have to schedule performances by Andreas Schager six years in advance! The singer has appeared as a guest at the most prestigious venues there are, including La Scala in Milan, as well as at the Bayreuther Festspiele, where he has been invited to portray Parsifal. Notwithstanding his full calendar, Andreas Schaeger jumped to the chance of performing in the Czech capital: "I really look forward to visiting Prague, to working with Andreas Sebastian Weiser and the State Opera Orchestra. The State Opera has a long and illustrious tradition, and I feel greatly honoured to have been afforded the opportunity to become a little part of its history. And naturally, I am all the more delighted to be able to perform in Prague along with my wife Lidia, who will play Alban Berg's Violin Concerto in the first half of the evening."

Lidia Baich, one of the world's most remarkable young classical music artists, has engrossed audiences throughout Europe, as well as in the Americas and Asia. Alban Berg's *Violin Concerto* is the cornerstone of the repertoire of distinguished violinists around the globe. Berg



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composed it "to the memory of an angel", the untimely deceased 18-year-old Manon, the daughter of Alma Mahler and her second husband, the famous architect Walter Gropius. "The concerto's effect is truly exceptional," Lidia Bach pointed out. "The listener receives something to take away from the auditorium, something he or she will reflect upon long after having heard the piece."

The **Beethoven-Berg-Wagner** concert is the second instalment within a loose cycle of the State Opera's performances at the Forum Karlín, which was launched by a notable concert in March 2017 (**Wagner-Korngold-Zemlinsky**). We cordially invite you to come to the Forum Karlín again on 1 March 2018, when we will give a concert of Emil von Reznicek's once widely admired opera **Donna Diana**.

The Forum Karlín is being used by the State Opera as one of its substitute venues throughout the time of the ongoing reconstruction of its historical building.

The next new National Theatre opera production, of Miloš Orson Štědroň's Don Hrabal, will receive its world premiere on 14 December 2017 at the New Stage. Roman Janál will feature in the title role.



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