

theat

Opera

Slovak and Czech Repertoire

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The development of the Slovak opera theatre has not been long, but over the past 100 years of its existence it gained a remarkable character through its intensity and dynamic. The activities in this field took place on two levels: interpretation and composition. In both cases, the Slovak National Theatre played the key role. Building of the professional interpretation level arose from the Czech and world repertoire by staging Italian, French and Russian operas and focusing on the development of the original Slovak opera. This interpretation trend is clear throughout the history of the Slovak opera theatre. Czech opera heavily influenced the emergence of the Slovak opera theatre. Three Slovak opera houses were opened by three plays of the Czech artists: *The Kiss* by Bedřich Smetana in the Slovak National Theatre, his *Bartered Bride* in the State Theatre Košice, and *Eva* by Josef Bohuslav Foerster in the State Opera in Banská Bystrica. Since the 1920s, the Slovak opera scene initiated the development of the original Slovak works. The first steps included Ján Levoslav Bella's *Wayland the Smith* and the first original attempt at national opera *Detvan* by Viliam Figuš-Bystrý, culminating in the full-fledged *The Whirlpool* by Eugen Suchoň. His generational contemporary Ján Cikker wrote a wonderful score about the fate of the folk hero *Juro Jánošík* and set to music Charles Dickens' story *Mister Scrooge*. The works of both authors are alive on the stages of the Slovak theatres to this day. Three Slovak opera stages now feature the works of more recent and contemporary composers: *The Feast* by Juraj Beneš and *Dorian Gray* by Ľubica Čekovská strongly resonated in the Slovak National Theatre. The alternative opera scene is being successfully represented by Slavo Solovic and his *Cirrostratus* or *Coma* by Martin Burlas.

Ján Levoslav Bella: WAYLAND THE SMITH
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 28 April 1926
Directed by Václav Jířikovský
Musical direction Oskar Nedbal
Wide-screen shot
Photo Josef Hofer/Theatre Institute Archive



Eugen Suchoň: THE WHIRLPOOL
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 10 December 1949
Directed by Karel Jernek
Musical direction Ladislav Holoubek
Wide-screen shot
Photo Gejza Podhorský/Theatre Institute Archive



Ján Cikker: RESURRECTION
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 9 October 1976
Directed by Branislav Kriška
Musical direction Zdeněk Košler
From left Róbert Szűcs, Marta Nitranová
Photo Jozef Vavro/Theatre Institute Archive



Leoš Janáček: THE MAKROPULOS AFFAIR
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 7 April 1973
Directed by Branislav Kriška
Musical direction Zdeněk Košler
From left Milan Kopačka, Elena Kittnarová
Photo Jozef Vavro/Theatre Institute Archive



Juraj Beneš: THE FEAST
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 13 April 1984
Directed by Branislav Kriška
Musical direction Viktor Málék
From left Róbert Szűcs, Elena Kittnarová, Peter Mikuláš, Gustáv Papp
Photo Jozef Vavro/Theatre Institute Archive



Bedřich Smetana: THE KISS
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 30 May 2003
Directed by Pavol Smolík
Musical direction Jaroslav Kyzlink
From left Michal Lehotský, Klaudia Račič Derner, Choir of the Slovak National Theatre Opera
Photo Slovak National Theatre Archive



Ján Cikker: JURO JÁNOŠÍK
State Opera Banská Bystrica 5 June 2016
Directed by Roman Polák
Musical direction Marián Vach
Wide-screen shot
Photo Jozef Lomnický/Theatre Institute Archive



Slavo Solovic - Viliam Klímáček: CIRROSTRATUS
Theatre GÚnaGÚ Bratislava 25 January 2003
Directed by Viliam Klímáček
From left Oľga Beľesová, Viliam Klímáček, Eva Matiašová, Petra Polnišová, Tony Pisár, Zuzana Ožvoldiková, Michal Kaščák
Photo Theatre Institute Archive



Martin Burlas - Jiří Olič: COMA
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 24 November 2007
Directed by Rastislav Ballek
Musical direction Marián Lejava
From left Milan Chalmovský
Photo Alena Klenková/Theatre Institute Archive



Ľubica Čekovská: DORIAN GRAY
Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 8 November 2013
Directed by Nicola Raab
Musical direction Christopher Ward
From left Aleš Jeniš, Martin Gyimesi, Eric Fennell
Photo Jozef Barinka/Slovak National Theatre Archive