Russian opera traditionally occupied a strong position in the Slovak opera life, particularly Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin that essentially never left our opera stage since 1920. Italian opera has been the most popular part of the opera repertoire among our audiences as well as in the world, particularly the works of Giuseppe Verdi and Giacomo Puccini. The Slovak National Theatre and the State Opera in Banská Bystrica have a long tradition of staging the bel canto style operas of Gioacchino Rossini and Gaetano Donizetti. On all three of these stages, operas of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart are a fixture. Charles Gounod and particularly his most important opera Faust and Marguerite became a series of staging milestones in the history of the Slovak opera theatre. Almost every production was a significant theatrical event. Starting with the first plays of directors Josef Peršl and Viktor Šulc in the early days of the Slovak National Theatre, through the expressionist mood of the Košice production directed by Kornel Hájek, the ground-breaking and for many shocking play of Jozef Bednárik, to the last version - in the philosophical introverted execution by the Lithuanian Gintaras Varnas in the Slovak National Theatre.

## era World Repertoire

Charles Gounod: FAUST AND MARGUERITE State Theatre Košice 31 May 1958 Directed by Kornel Hájek Musical direction Boris Velat From left Anna Poláková, Anton Matejček



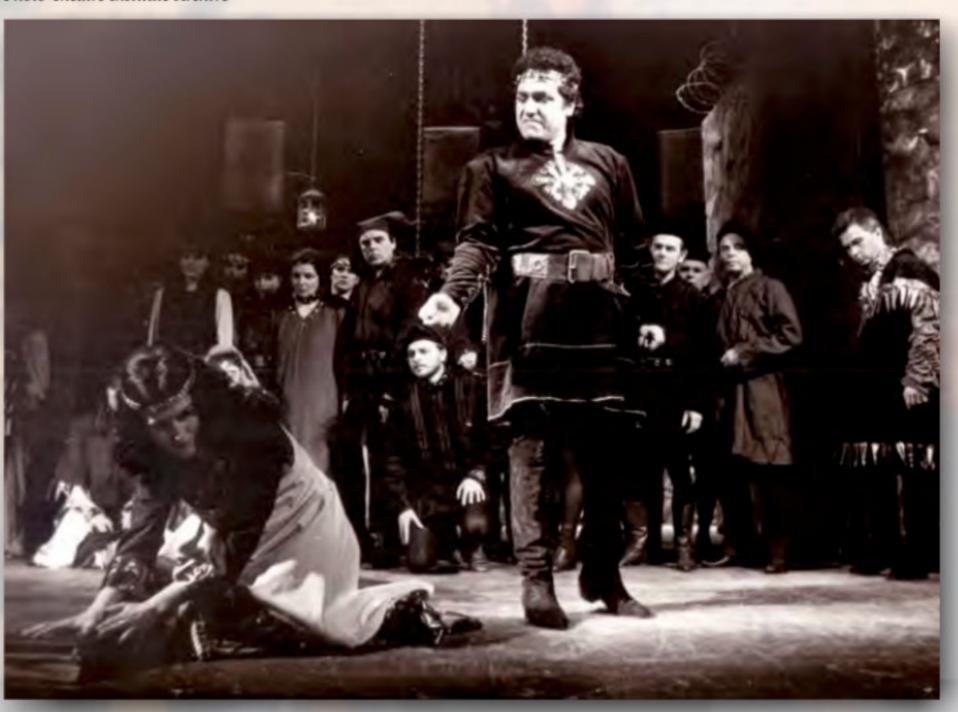
Charles Gounod: FAUST AND MARGUERITE Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 28 June 1989 Directed by Jozef Bednárik Musical direction Oliver Dohnányi Ján Galla and the Choir of the Slovak National Theatre Opera Photo Theatre Institute Archive



Giuseppe Verdi: LA TRAVIATA Jozef Gregor Tajovský Theatre - Opera Banská Bystrica (today State Opera Banská Bystrica) 14 December 1968 Directed by Drahomíra Bargárová Musical direction Vojtech Javora Oskár Korbela, Edita Gruberová Photo Karol Miklóši/Theatre Institute Archive



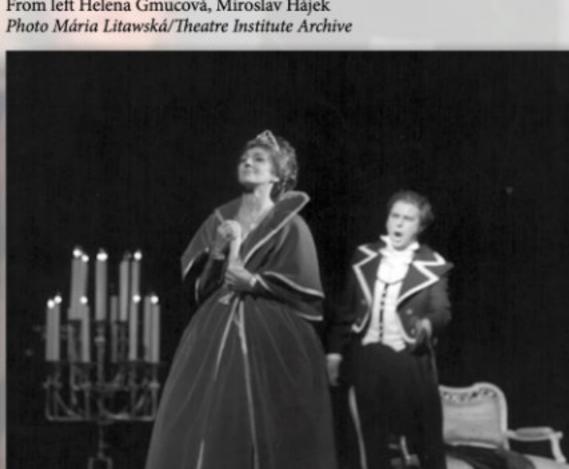
Giuseppe Verdi: AROLDO Jozef Gregor Tajovský Theatre - Opera Banská Bystrica (today State Opera Banská Bystrica) 19 January 1993 Directed by Martin Bendik Musical direction Pavol Tužinský From left Mária Tomanová, Gurgen Ovsepjan Photo Theatre Institute Archive



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: COSI FAN TUTTE Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 18 December 1971 Directed by Karel Jernek Musical direction Zdeněk Košler From left Ružena Štúrová, Magdaléna Hajóssyová Photo Pavol Breier/Theatre Institute Archive



Claude Debussy: PELLÉAS AND MÉLISANDE Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 9 May 1995 Directed by Miroslav Fischer Musical direction Jean-Paul Penin From left Jana Valášková, Francis Dudziak Photo Katarína Marenčinová/Theatre Institute Archive

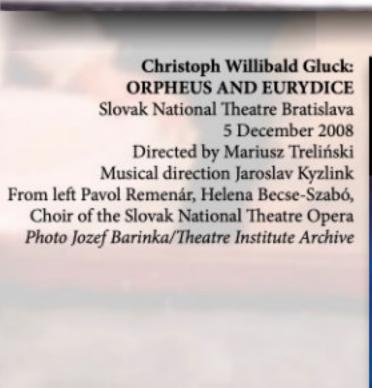


Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: EUGENE ONEGIN State Theatre Košice 19 November 1966 Directed by Václav Věžník Musical direction Boris Velat From left Helena Gmucová, Miroslav Hájek



Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: EUGENE ONEGIN Slovak National Theatre Bratislava 16 September 2005 Directed by Peter Konwitschny Musical direction Pavol Selecký From left Pavol Remenár, Natalia Ushakova Photo Alena Klenková/Theatre Institute Archive









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