

## **Maestro Plácido Domingo to conduct Mozart's Birthday in Prague. The cultural event of the season.**

**Prague, 5 November 2018**

**The National Theatre is preparing the annual Mozart's Birthday concert next year in collaboration with the Domingo-Mozart-Prague Association. On 27 January 2019, the Estates Theatre, whose history is closely linked with the legendary composer, will resound with W. A. Mozart's melodic music, as performed by the National Theatre Orchestra, under the baton of the world-renowned opera singer and conductor Plácido Domingo. Four superb soloists will appear at the concert: Adela Zaharia, Štěpánka Pučálková, Petr Nekoranec and Simone Alberghini.**

On 27 January, the National Theatre in Prague has annually commemorated the anniversary of the birth of the musical genius **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** by holding a gala concert at the **Estates Theatre**. Next year, **Mozart's Birthday**, a magical evening of classical music, will feature the globally celebrated opera singer and conductor **Plácido Domingo**. He will be returning to Prague less than a year after he conducted Václav Kašlík's production of *Don Giovanni* at the Estates Theatre.

Maestro Plácido Domingo said: *"I look forward to coming back to Prague so as to commemorate the anniversary of Mozart's birthday. I am eager to conduct a selection of the best Mozart pieces as performed by the very finest soloists – winners of the Operalia competition and distinguished Czech singers."*

Domingo, who has also conducted to great acclaim performances at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, has appeared in over a hundred operas, portraying almost 150 roles. The stellar artist has visited Prague owing to the collaboration between the National Theatre and the Domingo-Mozart-Prague Association.

The general director of the National Theatre, Prof. Jan Burian, is delighted to be able to welcome Domingo in Prague again: *"We are proud that the National Theatre has succeeded in collaborating with top-notch stars."*

The management of the National Theatre Opera and the State Opera have thus continued to pursue the trend set by its director Silvia Hroncová, upon whose invitation Prague has regularly hosted world-class artists. Soon the National Theatre audience will have the opportunity to see, among others, the Brazil-born German tenor Martin Muehle (*Carmen*, 1 December 2018, and *Andrea Chénier*, 2019) and Andreas Schager, currently one of the most acclaimed Heldentenors (*Lohengrin*, 22 and 24 February 2019).

Silvia Hroncová, the director of the National Theatre Opera and the State Opera, pointed out: *“We feel greatly honoured that Maestro Domingo will conduct the Mozart’s Birthday concert in Prague. We believe that the unique evening, which has been annually held over the long term, will provide the audience with an unforgettable experience and become a magnificent celebration of the Estates Theatre’s illustrious Mozart tradition.”*

The programme of the concert at the Estates Theatre to commemorate the anniversary of Mozart’s birthday will include **arias and duets from the composer’s operas**, as performed by four brilliant soloists. The Romanian soprano **Adela Zaharia**, hailed as a “true revelation”, came first in the **Operalia** competition in 2017. Following his 1993 debut at the Teatro Regio in Turin and winning Operalia in 1994, the Italian bass-baritone **Simone Alberghini** has performed at a number of major opera houses worldwide, including in Prague, where last year he portrayed the role of Don Giovanni at the Estates Theatre, conducted by Plácido Domingo. In addition to foreign guests, two accomplished young Czech soloists will appear at Mozart’s Birthday. The graceful mezzo-soprano **Štěpánka Pučálková** has completed her master’s studies cum laude at the Universität Mozarteum in Salzburg and since the 2018/19 season has been a soloist of the Semperoper in Dresden. The tenor **Petr Nekoranec**, one of the most exciting young Czech singers, has since September 2016 been the first ever Czech trainee of the Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. This year, he advanced to the final of the prestigious Operalia competition in Lisbon.

Tickets for the concert will go on sale on **12 November, at 9 am**, at the National Theatre box offices and online.

## **Basic information**

MOZART'S BIRTHDAY

Selected Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart music

27 January 2019, 7 pm, Estates Theatre

Conductor: Plácido Domingo

Soloists:

Adela Zaharia

Štěpánka Pučálková

Petr Nekoránek

Simone Alberghini,

and

the National Theatre Orchestra

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