

The Bolshoi Theatre and IMG Artists Company agreed on the further performance programme of PLACIDO DOMINGO in Moscow.

These days in Moscow, at the Bolshoi Historic Stage, Placido Domingo appears as a conductor (October 24, opera *Manon Lescaut*) and as an headliner and performer in a gala on October 24, 2020. Higih points of the 245 anniversary season opening made the Bolshoi management and the theatre's long-time partner – IMG company, to agree on the opportunity of further cooperation with the great musician of our time in this season.

Placido Domingo supported the idea wholeheartedly:

"These past few days in Moscow have been very special to me and my wife Marta," Maestro said. "After several rehearsals, I had the pleasure and privilege to conduct the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra. Under my baton the Bolshoi soloists, chorus and orchestra performed Manon Lescaut by Giacomo Puccini. This conducting debut of mine took place 45 years after I sang Cavaradossi in Tosca during La Scala tour at the Bolshoi Historic Stage in 1974. I will continue to enjoy this week singing a Gala concert accompanied by some of my dear Russian friends - Anna Netrebko and Ildar Abdrazakov as well as other dear colleagues Piotr Beczala, Yusif Eyvazov, and Michael Volle.

I also will have the pleasure of introducing to the Bolshoi audience four outstanding voices that were winners in my Operalia competition: the Swedish soprano Cristina Nilsson, the South African soprano Pretty Yende, who won top honours in the Operalia edition here in Moscow in 2011, and the Spanish tenor Xabier Anduaga. I have returned to Russia often through the decades and I have done much opera in St. Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre, but I am grateful and thrilled for the opportunity to reconnect with the Bolshoi public. Russia has given birth to many of the most legendary composers in history and to many of the great operatic voices of today. I am excited and privileged at the chance of being part of this great house's present and its future."

The programme of Placido Domingo's collaboration with the Bolshoi Theatre will be multifarious enough during the entire season: he will conduct performances of *La Bohème* by Puccini (February 12 and 14, 2021); Maestro will sing Rodrigo in *Don Carlo* by Verdi (April 15 and 18, 2021) and appear as Giorgio Germont in *La Traviata* by Verdi (May 5 and 8, 2021.)He will hold master classes for the Bolshoi soloists and members of the Youth Opera Program.

And then, on March 9, 2021, Maestro will headline another international opera gala.

Vladimir Urin, the Bolshoi Theatre General Director: "We feel very happy and privileged to cooperate with such a grand musician.*It is remarkable that our artists, the Bolshoi Orchestra will have an opportunity to communicate with Placido Domingo all season through. He is not only an outstanding performer, brilliant conductor with a unique talent and experience - he is a man of great culture".*

Alexander Shustorovich (IMG Artists president):

"For many years the IMG Company works together with the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia presenting this iconic company on tours to the audience of various countries of the world. Today we are glad to become a member of the partnership which makes it possible that legendary Placido Domingo will work in Moscow together with the Bolshoi Theatre Company".