



The Bolshoi Theatre is completing preparations for the premiere of *Mazeppa*.

The premiere of the three-act opera *Mazeppa* by Tchaikovsky will take place on June 23 at the Historic Stage. Libretto by Victor Burenin based on the poem *Poltava* by Alexander Pushkin.

Music Director – [Tugan Sokhiev](#).

Stage Director — [Evgeny Pisarev](#). This will be the director's third work at the Bolshoi and the first one at the Historic Stage. Previously, he staged two operas at the New Stage - in 2015, Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* (nominated for the Golden Mask Award for the Best Director) and in 2018, Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*.

The last time the opera *Mazeppa* was staged at the Bolshoi Theatre was in 2004 when it was staged by the outstanding director Robert Sturua with sets by the designer Georgy Aleksy-Meskhishvili. Fifteen years later, in March

2020, the choir, orchestra and soloists of the Bolshoi under the direction of Tugan Sokhiev presented the concert version of the opera *Mazeppa*. Now a staged version of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece will appear on the theatre's playbill again.

Set Designer — [Zinovy Margolin](#) (his work at the Bolshoi includes the operetta/ *Die Fledermaus* by Strauss (director Vasily Barkhatov, 2010,) operas *Prince Igor* by Borodin (director Yuri Lyubimov, 2013) *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* (Alexei Frandetti, 2019) Evgeny Pisarev's productions of *Le Nozze di Figaro* by Mozart, 2015, and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* by Rossini, 2018.

Tugan Sokhiev says:

"... Tchaikovsky's path to *Mazeppa* was not easy, he prepared for this opera for a long time, it was not born instantly and naturally, as if by itself. The reason, perhaps, is that it was a difficult period in the composer's life.

According to the composer's handwriting, the opera, written, among other things, after the *Vespers* (one of the important composition-predecessors of *Mazeppa*), could be considered an intermediate composition, if not for its truly bright personality.

... Tchaikovsky's musical language is recognisable here and derives from his past: sometimes it resembles the language of the *The Maid of Orleans* almost literally, on the verge of quotation. There are many similarities in how Tchaikovsky constructs the dramaturgy of the episodes, even at the orchestration level.

And on the one hand, this is a really big opera with bright colours, cossacks, serdyuks, peoples, prayers. But in terms of emotional intensity, the scene of prayer can be compared with the best pages of Mussorgsky and, in general, can be attributed to the best traditions of Russian choral opera music. The "Poltava Battle" - what a masterful use of the orchestra! And in *Mazeppa*, the drama, to which Tchaikovsky will come later, is already clearly visible: when you cannot see where one flows into the other.

... The impressions, sounds, atmosphere that fuelled Tchaikovsky's imagination at his sister's Ukrainian estate became an important colour of the score of *Mazeppa*. They gave it the flavour that makes it special and is incredibly strong in all the music of the opera - even in the melodic pattern."

Evgeny Pisarev:

"Despite the fact that this is my third production at the Bolshoi Theatre, it is, to some extent, my debut, because before that I worked only with the Italian opera buffo. I have never staged operas in Russian. Moreover, the Historic Stage is a different degree of verification. And the fact that there are historical personalities in *Mazeppa* also limits the possibilities of the director's interpretation, in a certain way. In my work, of course, it helps me a lot that my constant co-author, Zinovy Margolin, is always near. Everyone around me argued that *Mazeppa* was an opera about love. But Zinovy convinced me that it would be possible to tell about love only if we talk about the war. I agree with him. Tchaikovsky has a lot of sentimental music even in the military-patriotic opera *Mazeppa*, but war is a necessary connection to this story, this territory. Therefore, war is always present in the play, even when local lyrical themes are present. And then the thought came to me to spread it through all times. How to show it on stage? For Sturua it was "always" - such a space outside of time, but "always" is the same as "never". And with us everything will be quite specific - the Battle of Poltava - 1709, the Civil War - the twenties of the 20th century, the Second World War and our times. The tragic war pages of this land. It seems to me that this will allow us to get away from some kind of common transfer of history, because we also cannot tell fabulous events today. Both Kochubey and *Mazeppa* are real persons. This shall not be ignored. I'm not afraid that someone might think that these are three performances in one. All action is connected through some things, some details that pass from one time to another. The scenery is based on the

image of a decaying house. It is enough to carry the theme and the correct state here. Russian opera is large, rather clumsy. I had naive thoughts that it is possible to add activity to it. In fact, you can emphasise the static, find some kind of action inside an almost motionless mise-en-scene. Like Tarkovsky did.

I cannot get rid of the music, I sing it day and night. I wake up with this music. My favourite moment is the execution scene in the second act. Musically, it seems outstanding to me.

It was a completely different, alien world for me, some kind of a journey. I didn't strive to be Sergei Bondarchuk, and now I feel this way sometimes at rehearsals, when there are 120 people only in the choir, and adding extras -160."

Movement Director - [Alberts Alberts](#) (he took part in Evgeny Pisarev's previous productions at the Bolshoi - *Le Nozze di Figaro*, 2015, and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, 2018.)

Costume Designer - [Olga Shaishmelashvili](#) (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, 2018.)

Lighting Designer — Damir Ismagilov.

Chief Chorus Master - Valery Borisov.

Choreographer - [Irina Kashuba](#) (choreographer and movement director of *The Tale of Tsar Saltan*, 2019).

There will be performances on June 24, 25, 26, 27 as well.

[Performance details](#)

Main roles prepared by: Elchin Azizov, Zeljko Lucic (*Mazeppa*), Denis Makarov, Stanislav Trofimov (Kochubey,) Agunda Kulaeva, Elena Manistina (Lyubov,) Anna Nechaeva, Anna Shapovalova (Maria,) Dmytro Popov, Oleg Dolgov (Andrei,) Alexander Borodin, Nikolai Kazansky, Valery Gilmanov (Orlik), Ilya Selivanov, Alexander Chernov (Iskra), Ivan Maximeyko, Maxim Paster (Drunk Cossak.)

The *28th International Ballet Festival Benois de la Danse* took place at the Bolshoi Theatre on June 8 and 9.

The *Benois de la Danse* 2020-21 nominees' gala and the presentation of the awards to the winners took place at the Historic Stage on June 8.

The Bolshoi Ballet prima Ekaterina Krysanova was one of the two winners of the Benois-2021 prize for Best Female Dancer. An expert jury awarded her for her performance of the title role in Adam's ballet *Giselle* (the version by Alexei Ratmansky).

The Bolshoi Ballet prima Svetlana Zakharova won the Russian-Italian *Benois-Massine Prize*.

Other winners of *Benois de la Danse-2020-2021*:

Anthony Dowell (For Life in Art)

Yuri Possokhov (Best Choreographer, ballet *Anna Karenina*)

Amandine Albisson (the Best Female Dancer, Carmen in the namesake ballet by Mats Ek at Paris Opera)

Jesús Carmona (Best Male Dancer)

Tacita Dean (Best Set Designer) and Thomas Adès (Best Composer) - both for the ballet *Hell - Dante's Project*.

The prizes awarded by: Svetlana Zakharova, Vladislav Lantratov, Ekaterina Kondaurova, Jacopo Godani and Kimin Kim.



The preparation for the upcoming premiere of *Mazeppa* by Pyotr Tchaikovsky goes on. Photo by Damir Yusupov from rehearsals



Anna Nechaeva is rehearsing the role of Maria. Elena Manistina (Love) at the rehearsal of *Mazeppa*. Zeljko Lucic (*Mazeppa*). Photo by Damir Yusupov



Ekaterina Krysanova - winner of *Benois de la Danse-2021*. The Bolshoi Ballet prima, National Artist of Russia Svetlana Zakharova - winner of *Benois-Massine Prize* (photo by Mikhail Logvinov)



The participants of the *Stars of Benois de La Danse* gala at the Bolshoi Historic Stage. Photo by Katerina Novikova

Presenters - Bolshoi Ballet first soloist Anastasia Meskova and Bolshoi Ballet principal Denis Rodkin.

The gala of June 8 programme ([\\*.pdf](#))

The Jury:

- Yuri Grigorovitch, chairperson, Bolshoi Ballet ballet-master, choreographer;
- Svetlana Zakharova, co-chairperson, prima ballerina of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia and Teatro alla Scala;
- Jacopo Godani, choreographer, artistic director of Dresden Frankfurt Dance Company;
- Joaquín De Luz, artistic director of Spanish National Dance Company;
- Élisabeth Platel, director of the Paris Opera Ballet School;
- Lili Xin, artistic director of Shanghai Ballet;
- Ashley Wheater, artistic director of Joffrey Ballet;
- Edward Watson, principal dancer of the Royal Ballet of Great Britain.

On June 9 – a gala *Stars of Benois de La Danse* – winners of different years.

Programme details ([\\*.pdf](#))

## CURRENT EVENTS IN THE THEATRE LIFE

June 11, 12, The Historic Stage - *The Winter's Tale* by choreographer [Christopher Wheeldon](#) and composer [Joby Talbot](#) based on the namesake play by William Shakespeare.

The premiere at the Bolshoi was on April 4, 2019, the production was the winner of the Golden Mask award of the last year in categories the Best Conductor (Anton Grishanin - conductor all days), the Best Male Role (Artem Ovcharenko.)



Daria Khokhlova as Perdita, Vyacheslav Lopatin as Florizel. Photo by Elena Fetisova. Ballet *The Winter's Tale* on June 11-12 at the Historic Stage



*Artifact Suite.Couple* – Anastasia Stashkevich, Vyacheslav Lopatin. Photo by Damir Yusupov Petrushka - Denis Zakharov. The dancer's photo on [Instagram](#)

Set and Costume Designer - [Bob Crowley](#)

Lighting Designer - [Natasha Katz](#).

[Performance details](#)

[Casts](#)

Christopher Wheeldon - about the ballet and the rehearsal process shortly before the premiere - a video on [YouTube](#) (2'04")

The artistic director of the ballet company Makhar Vaziev, choreographer Christopher Wheeldon, composer Joby Talbot, the first performers of the ballet's roles Olga Smirnova (Hermione), Denis Savin (Leontes), Maria Vinogradova (Perdita) speak about the performance in the video (2'37 " ) for the premiere on the Bolshoi [YouTube](#) channel.

All three performances of *The Winter's Tale* on June 11 and 12 were given within the programme Bolshoi to Youth. Ticket sales conditions ([\\*.pdf](#))

**June 4, 5, 6**, the New Stage - ballets [Artifact Suite](#) by William Forsythe

(To music by Eva Crossman-Hecht and Johann Sebastian Bach) and [Petrushka](#) by Stravinsky in choreographic version by Edward Clug. The programme of one-act ballets was first presented at the Bolshoi on November 20, 2018.

[Artifact Suite](#) casts

[Petrushka](#) casts

A video about the premiere of [Artifact Suite](#) and [Petrushka](#) – via the link.

Choreographer Edward Clug, who created the original choreography of the ballet *Petrushka* especially for the artists of the Bolshoi Ballet, was a guest of the Green Salon [interview](#) series. The head of the Bolshoi press office Katerina Novikova hosted the talk. Next season, the choreographer will prepare the premiere of the ballet *Master and Margarita* at the Bolshoi, which was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

All four performances of one-act ballets were given within the programme Bolshoi to Youth.



Artists after the performance of [Tosca](#) on June 9.  
Photo by Maria Lobanova on Instagram

**June 9, 10, 11, 12, 13**, the Bolshoi New Stage - the second premiere series of the opera *Tosca* by [Giacomo Puccini](#).

One of the world's favourite operas returned to the Bolshoi after a seven year break on April 21, 2021.

The staging was performed by an Italian production team – Music Director [Daniele Callegari](#) and Director [Stefano Poda](#) who also worked as a set, costume and lighting designer.

Chief Chorus Master - [Valery Borisov](#).

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica based on Victorien Sardou's play of the same name.

See more about the creation of the production.

[Casts](#)

[Tosca](#) as a Tragedy – Stefano Poda's interview on the website.

In his exclusive interview with [Vesti.Ru](#) Stefano Poda said that the work at the Bolshoi is a gift to him. The interview is published on the Smotrim media platform - the talk hosted by Katerina Novikova. "In this *Tosca*, there is my whole life" the director says. He has staged more than a hundred productions including *Tosca* twice - in Austria in 2012 and in Germany in 2014.

June 16 and 17, the New Stage – one-act ballets [Etudes](#) and [Symphony in C](#).

The premiere of *Etudes* by Harald Lander (to music by Knudage Riisager after works by Carl Czerny) took place on March 19, 2017.

[Casts](#)

The revival of *Symphony in C* by George Balanchine to music by Georges Bizet prepared in cooperation with George Balanchine Foundation conforms with Balanchine standards of style and technique set and provided by the Foundation.

Ballet master-repetiteur - [Elyse Borne](#) († December, 2019).

The premiere was on June 13, 2019. The ballet was staged at the Bolshoi Theatre for the first time on April 21, 1999.

[Casts](#)



A scene from the ballet *Orlando*. Photo by Natalia Voronova.

June 19-20, the New Stage - the third premiere series of the ballet *Orlando* by [Christian Spuck](#) to music by Edward Elgar, Philip Glass, Lera Auerbach and Eleha Kats-Chernin.

Music Director - [Alexei Bogorad](#) (at the pulpit.)

The world premiere of the ballet based on the same-name novel by Virginia Woolf took place on March 24.

Libretto by [Claus Spahn](#);

Set Designer - [Rufus Didwizsus](#).

Recorded fragments of a novel are read by Marina Frenk.

#### [Casts](#)

[Christian Spuck](#) - the guest of Katerina Novikova at the Green Salon, *Orlando* - a film within the Ticket to Bolshoi project on the Bolshoi YouTube channel.

June 10, 11, 12, Pokrovsky Chamber Stage - the first opera premiere of the 245 season - *Les pêcheurs de perles* by Georges Bizet. The première took place on December 10-13, 2020.

Music Director - [Alexei Vereshchagin](#).

Director and Set Designer - [Vladislavs Nastavševs](#).



A scene from the performance. Photo by Pavel Rychkov

#### [Casts.](#)

Performers and the production team speak about the opera premiere in a video on the Bolshoi YouTube channel. *Les pêcheurs de perles*. Beyond Time and Space - on the history of the opera's creation and its staging at the Bolshoi.

The premiere of *Les pêcheurs de perles* in photos by Pavel Rychkov

June 18, 19 and 20, Pokrovsky Chamber stage - opera by Rimsky-Korsakov *Servilia*, the composer's libretto based on the namesake drama by Leo May.

The premiere took place on April 15, 2016.

Music Director - [Gennady Rozhdestvensky](#)

Stage Director - [Olga Ivanova](#)

#### [Casts](#)

Conductor - the guest conductor of the Chamber Stage [Dmitry Kryukov](#)



*Servilia* by Rimsky-Korsakov  
at the Chamber Stage on June 18-20

July 1, the New Stage - the world premiere of the ballet *The Seagull*.

Composer Ilya Demutsky wrote the music for the ballet which was especially commissioned [by the Bolshoi](#).

Choreographer — [Yuri Possokhov](#).

This is their third collaboration at the Bolshoi Theatre (previous ballets *A Hero of Our Time*, 2015, and *Nureyev*, 2017).

Libretto by [Alexander Molochnikov](#) and Olga Khenkina.

Designer - Tom Pye

Music Director - [Anton Grishanin](#).

Costume Designer — [Emma Ryott](#). She worked at the Bolshoi on costumes for the ballet *Orlando* by Christian Spuck, the world premiere of March 24, 2021. Lighting Designer — David Finn.

Main roles prepared by: Artem Ovcharenko, Alexei Putintsev, Dmitry Smilevsky (Trepnev), Anastasia Stashkevich, Anastasia Denisova, Elizaveta Kokoreva, Maria Vinogradova (Nina), Vladislav Lantratov, Artemy Belyakov, Igor Tsvirko, Egor Gerashchenko (Trigorin), Svetlana Zakharova, Ekaterina Krysanova, Kristina Kretova (Arkadina), Vyacheslav Lopatin, Georgy Gusev (Dorn), Yulia Stepanova, Angelina Vlashinets, Anna Balukova, Xenia Zhiganshina (Masha), Alexander Vodopetov, Anton Savichev, Erick Swolkin, Alexander Smolijaninov (Shamraev), Maria Alexandrova, Anna Tikhomirova, Anastasia Meskova (Polina Andreevna), Ruslan Skvortsov, Denis Savin (Sorin) and others.

The artistic director of the Bolshoi Ballet, National Artist of Russia [Makhar Vaziev celebrated](#) his birthday on June 16.

Makhar Vaziev: Five Years in Moscow— the Bolshoi publishes an article by Elena Fedorenko ([\\*.pdf](#))

“ Makhar Vaziev was appointed to his position at the Bolshoi not as a crisis manager, but as a unique expert and recognised ideologist with twenty years of experience in ballet “hot spots”: 13 at the Mariinsky, seven at La Scala.

The “Ballet Petersburg”, a workaholic and perfectionist, started at the Bolshoi with two one-act ballets. He introduced Russia to the feminist *Cage* by Jerome Robbins, and Anastasia Stashkevich shone in the performance.”/.../



Ballet-master Jan Godovski and choreographer Yuri Possokhov work with the Bolshoi dancers on the ballet *The Seagull*. Photo by Elena Fetisova



Artem Ovcharenko will appear as Treplev in the ballet *The Seagull*. Photo from rehearsals by Katerina Novikova



Со Светланой Захаровой  
и Даниилом Ноймаевым  
Фото © Михаил Логвинов.

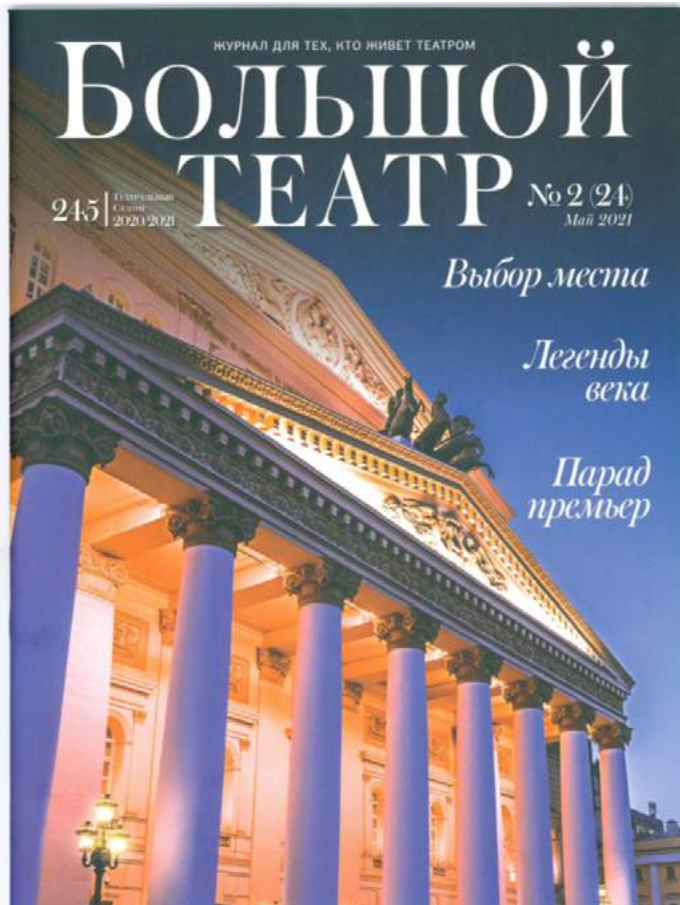
Makhar Vaziev: Five Years in Moscow - a photo from The Bolshoi Theatre magazine (May 2/24, 2021)



Принц Зигфрид. «Лебединое озеро»  
П. Чайковского. Одежда – Ольга Ченчикова.  
Фото © Нина Аловерт.



«В ночи» на музыку Ф. Шопена.  
С Ольгой Ченчиковой.  
Фото © Михаил Логвинов.



The 2021 second issue of The Bolshoi Theatre magazine is published (\*.pdf)

“What does it mean to lead the Bolshoi Ballet with the largest troupe in the world and the scale of the issues to resolve?” Vaziev was asked. “Let’s be honest: it is to help it grow. If you do not create an atmosphere where the artist from the back row of the corps de ballet feels that the management is interested in them, nothing will ever change. This has to be done non-stop. I understood that I would have to work almost around the clock.”/.../

Vaziev is not a dreamer, but a practitioner, he is interested in the result. He commissioned the world’s only ballet premiere during the quarantine period, although many still do not understand how *Four Characters in Search of a Plot* got to Moscow during strict isolation. ”

The 2021 the second issue of The Bolshoi Theatre magazine is published. The printed version is available on special racks in the theatre.

The articles include - The Return of *Tosca*; Makhar Vaziev: Five Years in Moscow; Makvala Kasrashvili: on the Top of Olympus; The Golden Mask; Dancer, Ballet-Master, Tutor: the Anniversary of Morikhiro Ivata; The Golden Bass of the Golden Age: in Memory of Evgeny Nesterenko; and much more.

The Bolshoi Theatre magazine (May 2/24, 2021) in electronic version (\*.pdf)

## SAD NEWS

**Elizaveta Surits (February 25, 1923, Berlin - June 14, 2021, Moscow)**

Elizaveta Surits, an outstanding ballet expert with a worldwide reputation, theatre critic, translator, PhD in Art History, Honoured Art Professional of Russia, laureate of the Stanislavsky Prize, passed away.

Elizaveta Surits is the author and editor of numerous research publications and fundamental monographs: participants in Russian Seasons, American dance modern, the ballet heritage of Russian emigration in Great Britain, the history of the Bolshoi Theatre, plastique studios in Moscow and Leningrad in the 1920s, Gorsky and Goleizovsky, - this is the «amplitude» of Surits’ continuous interests as a researcher, supported by many years of regular work in the editorial groups of encyclopaedias and dictionaries.

The authority of ballet historian Elizaveta Surits was inseparable from the charm of her personality.

“For everyone who knows her, this fragile, petite woman is the standard of decency, honesty, commitment to her profession, an extraordinary mind and singular intelligence,” writes Edgar-Kirill Dahlberg.

Elizaveta Surits was born in Berlin. She was the daughter of a hereditary Russian noblewoman, the beautiful Elizaveta Karpova and the famous Soviet diplomat - Yakov Surits ...

She spent her youth in distant Brazil, where Yakov Surits worked as the extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of the USSR.

Elizaveta graduated from the Theatre Art department of GITIS and devoted her entire life to the history of ballet. Mordkin, Massine, Petipa, Balanchine appear lifelike before



With Ivor Guest, British ballet historian. 1990s. Ekran I Stsena No.3, 2018.



us on the pages of books and articles written by Elizabeth Surits. The largest connoisseur and researcher of foreign ballet, Elizaveta Surits is one of the authors of the French Ballet Dictionary of the Larousse publishing house, the American ballet dictionary Dance Encyclopaedia, and the English International Dictionary of Dance.

Fate brought her together with the famous ballerinas of the 20th century - Margot Fonteyne, Alicia Markova, Olga Lepeshinskaya, Alicia Alonso, Tatyana Leskova, who all looked with admiration at this amazing, sweet, most considerable woman, who to this day always sees only good in every person, she simply cannot see any other way.»

The Bolshoi Theatre mourns and expresses condolences over the passing of Elizaveta Surits.

Condolences of the chairman of the TPU of Russia Alexander Kalyagin over the passing of Elizaveta Surits. (\*[pdf](#))

## RUSSIAN MEDIA

The upcoming premiere of the opera *Mazeppa* at the Bolshoi Historic Stage - in an article in [Muzykalnoe Obozrenie](#). "The director of the current production, Evgeny Pisarev, has already staged Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* (2015; director - William Lacey) and Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (2018; director - Pierre Giorgio Morandi) at the Bolshoi. Earlier, in 2013, Rossini's opera *L'italiana in Algeri* he directed was shown at the Stanislavsky And Nemrovich-Danchenko Theatre. In his interview to Izvestia of that time Pisarev said the following: "We, directors, do not aspire to the opera ourselves. Apparently, a crisis of opera direction has come, that's why theatres attract drama directors. And the latter, of course, will never refuse such proposals. Because, for all my love for drama, opera is a higher genre. <...> Probably, it has more to do with art and eternity. Moreover, opera is always a large form, it is interesting to work with."

In March 2020, the choir, orchestra and soloists of the Bolshoi under the direction of Tugan Sokhiev presented the concert version of the opera *Mazeppa*. [RIA Novosti writes](#). The sets for the stage version were designed by Zinovy Margolin. The libretto based on Alexander Pushkin's poem *Poltava* was written by Viktor Burenin. The world premiere of the opera took place on this very stage of the Bolshoi in 1884."

Main roles by Elchin Azizov, Denis Makarov, Agunda Kulaeva, Anna Nechaeva.

Orpheus publishes the announcement of the premiere referring to [RIA Novosti](#).

[RBK announcement](#): "Pyotr Tchaikovsky's opera *Mazeppa* began its history on the stage of the Bolshoi

Theatre, where it hastens to return today in the version by director Evgeny Pisarev and music director Tugan Sokhiev. Pushkin's poem *Poltava*, forms the basis for the libretto, suggesting a really wide scope, which blossoms and assumes shades in music, combined with the tenderness and the lyrics the author of the poem endowed his protagonist with - not as generously as the composer considering his plot."

**BULLET** Numerous media reports mention the Bolshoi Theatre in connection with the presentation of the *Benois de la Danse* international ballet prize at the Historic Stage - June 8 and 9.

Kultura channel: [Benois de la Danse Festival](#) Returned to the Stage of the Bolshoi Theatre.

"It is fortunate that today foreign artists have come to the Bolshoi, in Moscow, and that all these borders (I understand that it was not easy to organise) are opening, and these ties are being renewed," Vladislav Lantratov, Bolshoi Ballet principal, told the [Kultura channel](#) correspondent."

[Russia -1](#): Ballet Oscar Awarded in the Capital



Vladislav Lantratov and Yuri Possokhov, a shot from a [Russia-1](#) report

[TASS](#): "The Italian Ambassador in Russia Pasquale Terracciano personally presented Svetlana Zakharova with the Italian-Russian *Benois-Massine Award* - "a true testimony to the special relationship between our countries and cultures." "I am really pleased today to present the prize to an international star who has performed at the largest and most important stages of the whole world - from Moscow to Paris, from St Petersburg to Tokyo," the ambassador emphasised. "Italy boasts a special connection with Svetlana Zakharova as she is the étoile of Teatro alla Scala in Milan."

"Thanks to the titanic efforts of the two [Benois de la Danse](#) founders - general director Regina Nikiforova and artistic director Nina Kudryavtseva-Luri - the winners received their statuettes, the nominees - diplomas, and the concert that accompanied the ceremony was surprisingly substantial." Tatiana Kuznetsova of Kommersant newspaper speaks about the *Benois-2020-21*

[Kommersant](#) publishes an article by Tatiana Kuznetsova with a review on the second evening of Benois-2020-21 (June 9.)

Media cover the Benois awards ceremony as well as the performance of Russian and world ballet stars:

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[Kultura newspaper](#)

[InterMedia](#)

and other media.

[Benois de la Danse](#) jury member, director of Paris Opera Ballet School Élisabeth Platel gave an extensive interview to Izvestia newspaper shortly before the festival gala.



Élisabeth Platel

The famous dancer said that she considers herself and her peers to be Nureyev's generation, admires the work of Laurent Hilaire, artistic director of the Stanislavsky And Nemrovich-Danchenko Theatre Ballet, and admits that she is amazed only by the artist who can find a balance between virtuosity and expressiveness. Yuri Kovalenko hosts the talk./.../

"Are there any big names among contemporary choreographers?"

"Who are on everyone's lips today? Same old names: John Neumeier who is over 80; Mats Ek who staged his last ballet two years ago and his 80 birthday is within a hand's reach; Jiří Kylián - and he, too, is far from being young."

"Yet there is also Alexei Ratmansky."

"I adore Alexei, he is fabulously gifted and deals much with the revival of old ballets now. He is a Russian Pierre Lacotte for me." //.../

"Young French étoiles Amandine Albisson and Paul Marque took part in the competition."

"They embody the best that distinguishes the Paris Opera ballet company both in classical and in modern repertoire. They are artists of today, representing French ballet."/.../



Amandine Albisson as Carmen  
([photo/Instagram of the ballerina](#))

• [Muzykalnoe Obozrenie newspaper](#), issue 4(476) 2021, publishes a review on the performance of *Moscow. Cheryomushki* (the premiere took place on March 25, 2021). Another high-quality, memorable premiere at the Bolshoi Chamber Stage. After *Les pêcheurs de perles* by Georges Bizet - *Moscow. Cheryomushki* by Dmitri Shostakovich in the year of the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the composer's birth./... / Perhaps, Ivan Popovski's production is not perfectly true in every detail, it is actually a little bit of a fairy tale. Yet it is full of love for close ones, nostalgia for their past - and therefore for the past deposited in our genetic memory.



A scene from *Moscow. Cheryomushki*.  
German Yukavsky as Barabashkin. Photo by Pavel Rychkov

We look at this past through the prism of the past years and this love. We look with joy, light sadness and hopes.”

- The birthday of [Marina Semyonova](#) (1908-2010) — June 12, marked by [Parlamentskaya Gazeta](#):

National Artist of the USSR. She was a dancer of the Leningrad Kirov Ballet (now - Mariinsky) and the Bolshoi Ballet. She performed the main roles in ballets *The Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *La Bayadere*, *Raymonda*, *Giselle* and others at these stages.

Marina Semyonova worked as a tutor-repetiteur for the Bolshoi Theatre, and also taught at the Moscow Choreographic School (now the Moscow Ballet Academy) and at the Moscow State Institute of Theatre Arts n.a. Lunacharsky (now - GITIS Academy). Maya Plisetskaya, Nina Timofeeva, Antalia Bessmertnova, Lyudmila Semenyaka and Galina Stepanenko were among her pupils.



Eva Sergeenkova - graduation course in the class of Marina Leonova, professor and rector of Moscow Ballet Academy



Alexander Makarov, “Outstanding ballerina and talented teacher Marina Semyonova during classes with her beloved student Natalia Bessmertnova in the rehearsal room”, May 2, 1970 / [RIA Novosti](#)

- In the morning of June 6, in Sergei Buntman’s programme *Otkryvashka* live on Echo [Moskvy Radio](#) the Bolshoi Ballet principal Denis Rodkin and artistic director of the *Benois de la Danse Festival* Nina Kudryavtseva-Luri, spoke about the features of the festival, the upcoming gala, and also answered questions from the audience.

• [La Personne](#) publishes photos from the Moscow Ballet Academy graduation concerts, which took place on May 27 and 31 at the Bolshoi Theatre. The magazine offers a photo report from behind the scenes of “this vivid theatrical event where an atmosphere of magic, excitement and beauty prevailed.”

• The readers of [Novaya Gazeta](#) responded to the request of the editors to tell about the losses from the coronavirus among their loved ones. Victoria Mochalova writes about the conductor Alexander Vedernikov, who passed away on October 30, 2020, at the age of 56, in the article *The Big Soul of the Bolshoi Theatre*.



Presenter of the *Benois de la Danse* ceremony, the Bolshoi Ballet principal Denis Rodkin, artistic director of the festival Nina Kudryavtseva-Luri and radio host Sergei Buntman at the Echo Moskvy studio

“Of course, they called him San Sanych behind his back. He came to the Bolshoi in 2001, a year earlier than me. Actually, he took me in, that is, I played at the competitive audition before a commission that he was at the head of. /.../ For me, Vedernikov has always been a symbol of immersion in his work. He kept a lot of scores in his head, he knew a huge amount of music. He spoke several languages: he always spoke German with German singers at rehearsals, and Italian - to Italians, when I heard his French speech, I was anything but surprised.

His death shocked me and, perhaps, for the first time in my life, presented me with the fact: you can know five

languages and the most complex scores, but one day the biological process will turn all this into nothing. It is still difficult for me to realise that all those things that constituted Vedernikov's personality no longer physically exist. There is no longer his amazing sense of humour, there is no longer his powerful intellect, there are no huge plans, there is no longer his immersion in music. ..."

- The [Domashny Ochag](#) magazine dedicates an article to the love story of the opera singer, the Bolshoi soloist Galina Vishnevskaya and the genius cellist Mstislav Rostropovich - Rostropovich and His Goddess. The article includes a lot of photos of the couple.



Mstislav Rostropovich and Galina Vishnevskaya lived together for 52 years

- The *11th Platonov Festival* is taking place in Voronezh. The musical and theatrical part began with the premiere of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* staged by Mikhail Bychkov and a recital by pianist Nikolai Lugansky on June 5. The international art forum takes place in Voronezh, the homeland of the famous writer Andrei Platonov.

**Kultura channel:** The *11th Platonov Festival* Started Its Work in Voronezh.

**RG gives details:**

The full programme - on the [Platonov Festival](#) website.

[Leonid Desyatnikov](#) - the winner of the [Platonov Prize-2021](#).

The awards ceremony of the *Platonov Prize* in the field of literature and art took place in Voronezh on the stage of the Chamber Theatre on Monday, June 14. Leonid Desyatnikov gave a recital at the Voronezh Chamber Theatre after the ceremony. The Merited Artist of Russia, laureate of the *I International Dmitry Shostakovich Competition Classica Nova*, pianist Alexei Goribol and soloist of the Grand Theatre of the Republic of Belarus tenor Taras Prisyazhnyuk took part in the concert also.

Covered by:

[Vesti PK](#)

[Novosti Voronezha](#)

[Colta.Ru](#)

and other media.



[Leonid Desyatnikov](#) - the winner of the [Platonov Prize-2021](#)

- The *Diaghilev Festival* will begin on June 10 with the performance of the concert *The Sacred Winter of 1949* by Leonid Desyatnikov, interpreted by [Teodor Currentzis](#). The opening evening will be at Soldatov Community Centre. Besides the main events, there will be an educational programme. The festival will last 11 days.

## INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

The Spanish online news publication [La Nueva Espania](#) publishes an article by Andrea García Torres "Castrillón's baritone [David Menéndez](#) prepares his return to the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, an outstanding stage of the world opera with which this Asturian interpreter has been collaborating for years. Now Menéndez will return to the Bolshoi to sing between June 28 and July 5, now that operatic activity is beginning to pick up around the world. He will perform [Il viaggio a Reims](#)."

The Greek events magazine [Athens Magazine](#) announces: "With an offer regarding the tickets, the Herodion opens its gates. The *Athens and Epidaurus Festival*,



wanting to give the opportunity to as many people as possible to attend this year's events, offers a free second ticket to those spectators who choose to buy tickets for the lower floor, for at least two concerts in June." The magazine announces the full programme which includes "28 and 29 August: "Best of Verdi, Puccini, Gounod and Tchaikovsky with the Soloists of the Bolshoi Opera of Moscow. Musical performance in which tenors and sopranos will take part, such as Elena Zelenskaya, Svetlana Shilova, Oleg Dolgov, Andrei Grigoriev etc. from the Bolshoi Opera of Moscow, in excerpts from the operas of Arensky, Puccini, Saint-Saëns, Cilea, Verdi, Offenbach, Gounod, Tchaikovsky and Mozart."

International media continue to cover the *Benois de la Danse Ballet Festival* which took place at the Bolshoi on June 8-9.

The Spanish online specialised dance news publication [Danza Ballet](#) reports: "The 28th *Benois de la Danse World Ballet Festival* sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation will take place at the Historic Stage of the Bolshoi Theatre on June 8 and 9." The festival programme is also published on the website.

Spanish media write a lot about the awarding of Jesús Carmone with the title of the Best Male Dancer.

The Spanish newspaper [ABC](#): "The Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, one of the great temples of universal dance, has



Danza Ballet: The Bolshoi Theatre hosts the *Benois de la Danse World Ballet Festival*

been the stage on which the Barcelona-born bailaor Jesús Carmona (1985) has been consecrated, undoubtedly one of the great figures of current flamenco dance, who has received one of the *Benois de la Danse* awards, organised since 1992 by the International Dance Union. These awards are known as the Oscars of dance. Along with Carmona, the Russians Yury Possokhov and Ekaterina Krysanova, the French dancer Amandine Albisson and the British dancers Thomas Ades and Tacita Dean have been awarded. In addition, the *Benois Award for a Lifetime Achievement* was presented to Anthony Dowell, a legendary figure in English ballet."



Bailaor Jesús Carmona received the title [Best Male Dancer](#)

The Spanish regional news [website Murcia.com](#): "Last night the Catalan received the precious statuette considered the Oscar of Dance throughout the world, after his performance at the nominees gala at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. "Now I am confident enough in my artistic discourse to continue discovering new possibilities in flamenco and Spanish dance." As a culmination, tonight he is dancing again on the legendary Moscow stage, at the illustrious winners' gala." "Jesús Carmona is the second Spaniard in the history of a list where the biggest stars of today's dance shine, from Vladislav Lantratov and Edward Watson to Olga Smirnova and Polina Semyonova.

[Danza Diarivasco.com](#) and other sources.

- The French online culture news publication Culture 31 Saint-Saëns memorial programme prepared by Tugan Sokhiev. "On June 5 by the Orchester national du Capitole paid a fine tribute to the composer of *Samson and Delilah* and of the *Carnaval des Animaux*, to quote two works with opposite characters. Under the ardent direction of Tugan Sokhiev and with the participation of the young and already great cellist Victor Julien-Laferrière and the famous organist Michel Bouvard, the three facets of the composer's genius included in the programme do full justice to Camille Saint-Saëns."

Austrian media report on the plans of *Salzburg Easter Festival for 2022* announcing maestro Tugan Sokhiev's participation in it.

The Austrian newspaper *Der Standard*: "Salzburg / Dresden - *The Salzburg Easter Festival* will resume regularly in 2022 after the corona-related cancellation in 2020 and a reduced programme in autumn 2021 - from April 9th to 18th." "The Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden also gives the best orchestral concerts. The guest conductor is Tugan Sokhiev. He conducts Dmitri Shostakovich's *Seventh Symphony*. Violist Antoine Tamestit plays the solo part in Béla Bartók's *Concerto for Viola and Orchestra*, followed by Richard Strauss' *Alpine Symphony*."

The Austrian newspaper *Die Presse* publishes an article by Wilhelm Sinkovicz: "With a new production of Wagner's *Lohengrin* Christian Thielemann is saying goodbye next year (2022) as artistic director of the *Salzburg Easter Festival*." "At a joint press conference, Thielemann and the designated artistic director Klaus Bachler stated that they had "found" each other during the conversation." "The 2022 programme includes a concert that will be will be conducted by Tugan Sokhiev (Shostakovich's *Seventh Symphony*)"



Tugan Sokhiev announced in the plans of Salzburg Easter Festival-2022

The Festival programme including Tugan Sokhiev's participation is also covered by the German classical music website BK Klassik and the Spanish online specialised classical music publication Platea Magazine.

The French online culture news website *Toute la Culture* (France) publishes an interview by Paul Fourier with Jérôme Brunetière the Secretary General of the *Festival d'Aix-en-Provence* (30 June-25 July 2021), about the 2021 programme of the festival. Recollecting the best performances of the past he mentions: "I also remember, in the past, Rameau's *Boréades* with Marc Minkowski, *Eugène Onegin* with the Bolshoi Orchestra conducted by Tugan Sokhiev..."

Culture 31 publishes an article by Serge Chauzy. "From June 9, if all goes well, the 9 p.m. curfew, in effect until then, will be extended to 11 p.m. The concerts at the Halle aux grains will therefore return to their usual schedule and will begin at 8 p.m. On June 12, the National Capitol Orchestra, conducted by Tugan Sokhiev, will receive the prestigious harpist, Xavier de Maistre, in an original programme of Russian music."

The French newspaper *Le Depeche* announces: "Victor Julien-Laferrière, solo cellist, will perform tomorrow (5 June) in concert with the Orchester du Capitole under the direction of Tugan Sokhiev for a beautiful tribute to the composer Camille Saint-Saëns. On the programme, notably the Cello Concerto n°1 and the powerful Symphony n°3."

- The Italian online dance news publication *Giornale della Danza* (Italy) publishes an article by Sara Zuccari who announces the programme of the *Nervi Music Ballet Festival 2021*. "The Festival is dedicated to the memory of Carla Fracci, who made her debut at the Nervi International Ballet Festival in 1957." The programme includes: "The étoile Svetlana Zakharova in duo with the violinist Vadim Repin..."

The Italian online specialised theatre news publication *Teatro.it* publishes an article by Paolo Fizzarotti who announces the programme of the upcoming edition of the *Nervi Music Ballet Festival 2021* which will take place in the Nervi Parks (Genoa) from Tuesday, 29 June, to Monday, 2 August, 2021. "The programme includes: "The étoile Svetlana Zakharova in duo with the violinist Vadim Repin," "the first dancers Ashley Boudier, Jacopo Tissi, Jacopo Bellussi, Davide Dato," "the State Academic Ensemble of Popular Dance of Igor Moiseev." In the Italian premiere, the choreographic-instrumental pas-de-deux by Svetlana Zakharova and Vadim Repin, *For Toes and Fingers* - a globally successful show that is renewed in Nervi thanks to the presence of Jacopo Tissi, main soloist of the Bolshoi Theatre who will dance a pas-de-deux from Mauro Bigonzetti's *Caravaggio* with the étoile Zakharova, together with the Carlo Felice Theatre Orchestra.

## BRIEFLY



The Bolshoi Theatre, June 15. Photo /Instagram wemoscow

The Mayor of Moscow signed a decree, according to which a long vacation was announced in the capital: non-working days from June 15 to 19, 2021 with the preservation of wages for employees.

Long Weekend in [Moscow Will Last 9 Days](#) — Rossiiskaya Gazeta reports and other media.

Institutions subordinate to the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation also work on a weekend mode during the long June weekend. This is reported by the department with reference to the corresponding order:

“From 15 to 19 June a weekend mode (Sunday) is set for federal museums, museum-reserves, organisations carrying out exhibition activities, libraries, theatres, concert halls, philharmonics and other organisations of performing arts,” the document says. The rules will also apply to state cinemas.

As the department explained to Rossiiskaya Gazeta, this does not mean stopping work. The institutions will continue to see visitors, but with the strengthening of all preventive measures.

ORT

[Orpheus](#) (based on Interfax materials) and other media.

• On June 7, President Vladimir Putin awarded Hans-Joachim Frey, an opera director, advisor to the general director of the State Academic Bolshoi Theatre and artistic director of the Sirius Talent and Success Foundation, with



On June 5, the Bolshoi Opera soloist, National Artist of Russia Irina Dolzhenko performed romances by Russian composers on Pushkin’s poems for the poet’s birthday - Pushkin Museum-Reserve. Together with Xenia Dementieva on a photo by Sergei Antipov / FB

the Order of Friendship. [TASS](#) reports “Award of the Order of Friendship to Frey Hans-Joachim, the artistic director of the Talent and Success Educational Foundation, a citizen of the Federal Republic of Germany, for his great contribution to the development of Russian-German cultural and humanitarian ties,” the document says. On May 6, the Pokrovsky Chamber Stage - the premiere of *Anne Frank’s Diary*. *Weisse Rose* directed by Hans-Joachim Frey.

• The New Music Studio ensemble played the *Second Chamber Symphony* by Nikolai Karetnikov, one of the brightest Russian composers of the second half of the 20th century, at the [Moscow Conservatory](#).

Kommersant tells about the world premiere organised by the Nikolai Karetnikov Foundation on the occasion of the composer’s 90th birthday. “Since the 1960s, when a young successful composer with ballets staged at the Bolshoi Theatre, abandoned all his early works, under the impression of New Viennese music, and took a vow of dodecaphony,



The *Second Chamber Symphony* by Nikolai Karetnikov was performed at Moscow Conservatory for the first time. Photo by Dmitry Lebedev/ Kommersant

his music was actually never performed. Even the recording of the *First Chamber Symphony* by Melodiya stayed on the shelf for 40 years: its current release (together with music by Denisov and Korndorf) has become a great event.”

The 2nd Rostov *Music Festival MOST*. Music-Orchestra-Symphony-Talent, Schubert-Marathon takes place on June 13-20.

The main theme of the *MOST Festival* is Humor in Academic Art. The Festival programmes of musical, theatrical, performance forms are dedicated to famous magicians and jesters who have become heroes of world mythology, epics, art and musical works of the classics.

[The festival programme](#)

[Orpheus](#) points out Six New Projects of the upcoming Covent Garden season:

“These are fresh productions of *Peter Grimes*, Handel’s oratorio *Theodora* with Joyce DiDonato, *Jenufa* by Janáček with Asmik Grigorian.

The artistic director of the theatre, Oliver Mears, will present a new production of *Rigoletto* in which Lisette Oropesa and Javier Camarena are invited to take part. A novelty of the season will be Richard Jones’ interpretation of Saint-Saëns’ composition *Samson and Delilah*, starring Elīna Garanča and Nicky Spence.

Among the old productions, attention is drawn to the performance of *Nabucco* where Russian voices are generously presented.

In addition to the season star Anna Netrebko, there are Alexander Vinogradov, the recent winner of the *International Opera Awards* Vasilisa Berzhanskaya, Nazhmiddin Mavlyanov. Russian bass Ildar Abdrazakov will once again sing the title role in the London production of *Attila*.

[The season at Covent Garden](#) opens on September 13th.”

[Teatral](#): Covent Garden Announces the New Season Programme

June 15, Zaryadye Concert Hall — concert of Joyce DiDonato (mezzo) and Craig Terry (piano) [In My Solitude](#) (postponed from January 31, 2021).

Part 1 - Haydn, cantata *Ariadne auf Naxos* for soprano and piano, Hob XXVlb: 2; Mahler, *Five Songs* to lyrics by Friedrich Rückert.

Part 2 - *Cleopatra* and *Cabaret Songs*

## DEBUTS

[Tosca](#)

**June 9**

Bolshoi Opera soloist [Maria Lobanova](#) appeared for the first time in the title role.

Italian tenor [Riccardo Massi](#) appeared for the 1st time as Cavaradossi in the Bolshoi production (also June 11 и 13.) Riccardo Massi debuted at the Bolshoi as Des Grieux in the premiere series of *Manon Lescaut* by Giacomo Puccini in October 2016. In 2019, he sang Richard in *Un Ballo in Maschera* by Verdi.

**June 10**

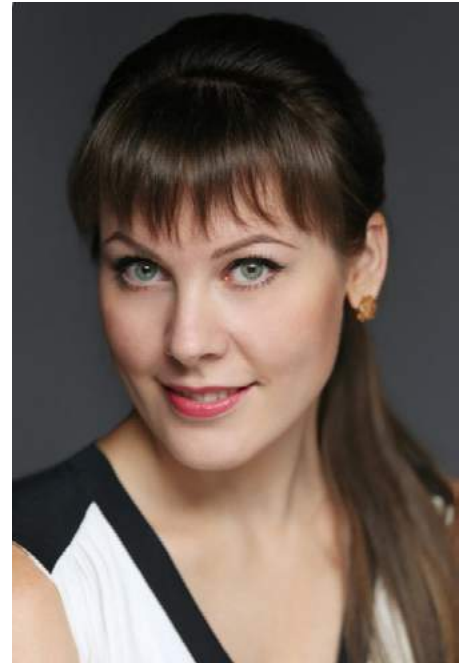
The opera soloist of Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre [Elena Guseva](#) appeared for the first time as Tosca in the Bolshoi production (debuted at the Bolshoi in September 2019 as Tatiana (*Eugene Onegin*) and then sang the title role in *Iolanta*.) A soloist of Armenian State Opera Ballet n.a. Spendaryan [Hovhannes Ayvazyan](#) she appeared as Mario Cavaradossi, renowned Bulgarian tenor [Vladimir Stoyanov](#) — as Baron Scarpia. They also took part in the performance on June 12.



JUN 1, 2021

Anna Netrebko, Jonas Kaufmann,  
Angela Gheorghiu, Sondra  
Radvanovsky, Elīna Garanča, Joyce  
DiDonato Lead Royal Opera  
House’s 2021-22 Season





Maria Lobanova, Riccardo Massi, Elena Guseva, Hovhannes Ayvazyan and Vladimir Stoyanov appeared for the first time in *Tosca* of the Bolshoi Theatre

## Etudes

### June 16

The Bolshoi Ballet new soloist [Ivan Sorokin](#) (one of the brightest participants from *Sykytyvkar* of the 13th International Competition of Ballet Dancers and Choreographers in 2017 at the Bolshoi Theatre, laureate of the First Prizes of Classical Dance in the senior groups of the international Moscow competitions *World Ballet Grand Prix-2019* and *Dancemoscov-2020*; in 2019-21 - student of the Moscow Ballet Academy, teacher - National Artist of the USSR Valery Anisimov) - debuts in the ballet.



Winner of international ballet competitions, the Moscow Ballet Academy student of 2019-21 [Ivan Sorokin](#) (photo/VK) debuts in *Etudes* at the New Stage on June 16

# CAST ALTERATIONS

## The Winter's Tale

June 12 (12:00)

Klim Efimov debuts as Florizel. Previously announced performance of Dmitri Smilevsky cancelled.



Klim Efimov (debuts as Florizel) with his partner in the production Margarita Shrayner (Perdita) after the matinee performance of *The Winter's Tale* on June 12. Photo/Instagram of the first soloist



Alexander Pushkin



Aram Khachaturyan

# BIRTHDAYS

**June 5** - world ballet star, choreographer Johan Kobborg

**June 6** -Alexander Pushkin (1799-1837)

**June 6** - composer, conductor, National Artist of the USSR Aram Khachaturyan (1903-1978). Among the most important works by Khachaturyan - *Spartacus* (1954) and *Gayane* (1942)

**June 7** -singer (tenore leggero), National Artist of the Republic Leonid Sobinov (1872-1934)

**June 7** - ballerina, Bolshoi Ballet soloist in 1954-1976 Natalia Kasatkina

**June 7** - conductor and composer, the founder of Russian violin school Leopold Auer (1845-1930.) Auer taught at St Petersburg Conservatory in 1868-1918 and oversaw the training of more than 300 pupils.

**June 8** - opera bass, mentor, National Artist of the USSR Artur Eizen (1927-2008); he sang at the Bolshoi for more than 40 years (1956-2002.)

**June 8** -singer (tenore leggero), tutor, National Artist of the USSR Nikandr Khanaev (1890-1974)



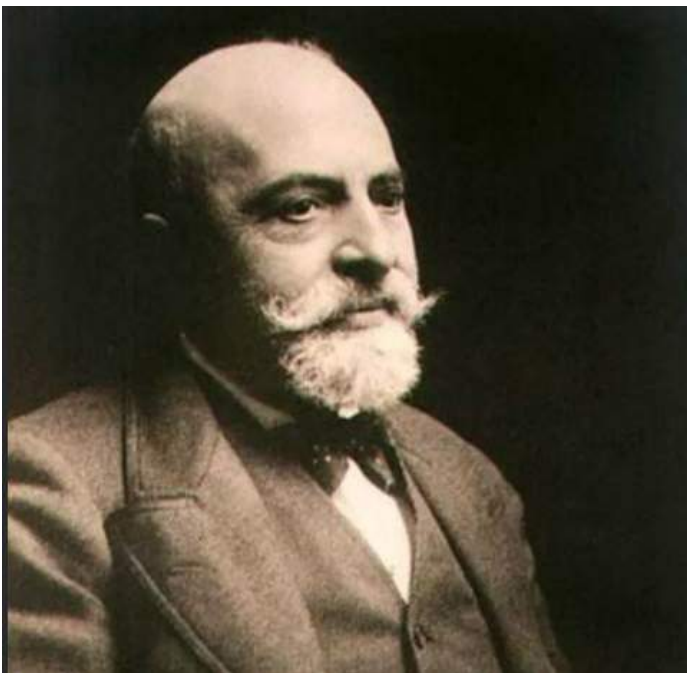
Leonid Sobinov



Svetlana Zakharova

**June 11** - conductor, National Artist of the RSFSR Vasily Nebolsin (1898-1958.) He was the Bolshoi chorus master in 1920, and a conductor in 1922.

**June 11** - ballerina Nina Timofeeva (1935-2014,) she danced at the Bolshoi in 1956-1988



Leopold Auer

**June 8** - Bolshoi Ballet leading soloist Maria Vinogradova

**June 10** - Bolshoi Ballet prima ballerina, National Artist of Russia Svetlana Zakharova



Nina Timofeeva

**June 12** - ballerina, National Artist of Russia Galina Stepanenko (Bolshoi Ballet Manager in 2013-2021)



**June 12** - ballerina, ballet-master, National Artist of the USSR Maria Semyonova (1908-2010) She danced at the Bolshoi Theatre in 1930-1952. Since 1953 - tutor-repetiteur of the Bolshoi.

**June 13** - opera singer (romantic coloratura), tutor, National Artist of the USSR Valeria Barsova (1892-1967)

**June 14** - Alexander Sokurov - 70th birthday. Many media congratulate him on the anniversary.

[Lenta.Ru](#)

[The First Channel](#)

[Rossia-K](#)

[RIA Novosti](#)

[Novaya Gazeta](#): "And why do the authorities, hate major personalities - Solzhenitsyn, Sakharov, Rostropovich ..."

"That is not so. Totalitarian authorities need people of genius, and it is in the conditions of totalitarianism that number of great people is the biggest."



At the Bolshoi, the director left *Boris Godunov* at the New Stage, Music Director - Alexander Vedernikov, Set Designer - Yuri Kuper, Costume Designer - Pavel Kaplevich.

[Media about the production](#)

A video (03:22'58") of the broadcasted performance (April 25, 2007) available on [YouTube](#)

**June 15** - Bolshoi Ballet manager [Anna Leonova](#)

**June 15** - director and set designer Pierre Luigi Pizzi; he staged Bellini's *La Somnambula* at the Bolshoi in 2013. Pierre Luigi Pizzi was the first guest of the Bolshoi Green Salon, March 2013.

**June 15** - composer Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

**June 16** - the Bolshoi Ballet director, National Artist of Russia Makhar Vaziev- 60th birthday

**June 16** - ballerina, ballet-master Alla Osipenko

**June 17** - composer Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

**June 18** - ballet dancer, choreographer, tutor, National Artist of the USSR Leonid Lavrovsky (1905-1967); in 1944-1964 (with some breaks) - chief ballet-master of the Bolshoi Theatre.

**June 18** - Bolshoi Opera soloist in 2016-2019 Aluda Todua





Igor Stravinsky

**June 21** – opera singer (mezzo), the Bolshoi Opera soloist in 1952-1983, National Artist of the RSFSR Larisa Avdeeva (1925-2013)

**June 22** - director of the Moscow theatre Kolobov New Opera Anton Getman; he was the deputy general director of the Bolshoi in 2002-2016.

**June 22** - hornist, tutor, the Bolshoi Orchestra soloist Igor Lifanovsky (1938-2002)



Boris Akimov in class. Photo from the private archive

**June 23** - ballet master of the Bolshoi, Merited Artist of Russia Alexander Petukhov

**June 25** - National Artist of the USSR Boris Akimov; the Bolshoi Ballet soloist (1965-1989), ballet master-repetiteur (since 1989), artistic director of the Bolshoi (2000-2003) and Ballet Academy (2002-2005) - 75th birthday

Boris Akimov – the guest of the [Green Salon](#), March 2013.

**June 25** - ballet dancer, ballet master, a prominent male dance tutor Alexander Prokofiev (1942-2007)