



Newsletter

The winners of the 16th Tchaikovsky International Competition were announced on the evening of June 27.

The winners in the Solo Singing category are soloists of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Programme [Maria Barakova](#) – 1st prize and a golden medal and [Maria Motolygina](#) – 3rd prize and a bronze medal.

[Maria Barakova](#) and [Maria Motolygina](#) on the concert website.



Maria Barakova and Maria Motolygina – 1st and 3rd prizes

The [BBC Cardiff Singer of the World](#) competition is one of the most prestigious in the world – in 2019 its main prize was awarded to the graduate of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Programme (2016–18) [Andrei Kimach](#).

In 1989 in Cardiff Dmitry Khvorostovsky was won the the Singer of the World competition; in 2009 the Bolshoi Opera soloist [Ekaterina Shcherbachenko](#) won the contest.

[The video of Andrei Kimach's performance \(00:51'26" – 1:12:26"\) in the final \(02:01'\) June 21, 2019](#)

[Andrei Kimach's profile on the Singer of the World website](#)

[British newspaper The Guardian about him](#)

The Bolshoi Australian tour to Brisbane, Queensland, at the Lyric Theatre of The Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) is was a triumph. The programme includes two productions: [Spartacus](#) by Yuri Grigorovich to music by Aram Khachaturian (8 shows), and [Jewels](#) by Balan-



Brisbane Lyric Theatre / QPAC.

QPAC Director General John Kotzas welcomed the Bolshoi Ballet in Brisbane at the opening night, June 26. Photo by Katerina Novikova.

Spartacus at QPAC, Brisbane. Photo by Darren Thomas, QPAC. Principal dancer Artem Ovcharenko debuted as Crassus on June 26.

Ekaterina Krysanova as Aegina. The dancer's photo on [Instagram](#). Alexander Vetrov, Igor Tsvirko, Margarita Shrayner, Makhar Vaziev, Olga Smirnova, Alexander Volchkov, Maria Allash behind the stage after the performance of June 27. Photo by Katerina Novikova.

Jewels at QPAC, Brisbane. Photo by Darren Thomas, QPAC

chine to music by Faure, Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky (5 shows).

Queensland Symphony Orchestra accompanied the performances. Conductor — Pavel Sorokin

Last time the company performed in Australia in 2013, from May 30 to June 9).

[See cast and performance details in Bolshoi Ballet in Brisbane, Six Years Later](#)

[See more about the tour opening and first performances of the ballet Spartacus in True Unification](#)

[Reviews](#)

On July 6 there was a live simulcast of the ballet Spartacus from the Lyric Theatre to nine towns in Queensland.

The formal tour-opening party took place on June 27. Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Queensland Governor Paul de Jersey, QPAC Director general John Kotzas, the RF ambassador in Australia Alexei Pavlovsky and other honoured guests greeted the Bolshoi.

[Curtain calls and ovations after the performance of Spartacus on June 27. Video by Katerina Novikova.](#)

Main roles performed by the Bolshoi stars: Denis Rodkin, Ekaterina Krysanova, Maria Vinogradova. Mikhail Lobukhin, Artemy Belyakov, Yulia Stepanova, Anna Nikulina, Igor Tsvirko, Alexander Volchkov, Olga Smirnova. Artem Ovcharenko, Margarita Shrayner, Eleonora Sevenard, Olga Marchenkova, Anastasia Denisova debuted in solo parts.

On June 29 the masterpiece by George Balanchine [Jewels](#) was presented. At Jewels opening night, the main roles were performed by: Emeralds — Xenia Zhiganshina, Anastasia Denisova, Fuad Mamedov, David Motta Soarez, Daria Khokhlova, Elizaveta Kruteleva, Denis Zakharov; Rubies — Ekaterina Krysanova, Artem Ovcharenko, Olga Marchenkova; Diamonds — Alyona Kovalyova, Jacopo Tissi.

There is a special exhibition I Am Spartacus in the Centre.



Opera-buffo [La Périchole](#) by Jacques Offenbach.
Photo by Pavel Rychkov

June 20, on the 200th birthday of Jacques Offenbach, the première of opera-buffo [La Périchole](#) took place at

Pokrovsky Chamber Stage. It was the first [La Périchole](#) at the Bolshoi. There were also shows on June 21 and 22. Stage Director and Set Designer — [Philipp Grigoryan](#)
Conductor of the premiere: [Philipp Chizhevsky](#).

[Cast details](#)

The Bolshoi completes its 243 season with a double tribute to the composer marking the 200th anniversary of his birth in 2019. On June 13–16 the premiere of [Gaité Parisienne](#) by Maurice Bejart to music by Jacques Offenbach took place at the Bolshoi New Stage.



The world premiere of the programme [Modanse](#) with the Bolshoi prima ballerina Svetlana Zakharova on June 22 and 23 at the Bolshoi Historic Stage

June 22 and 23, the Historic Stage — the world premiere of the programme [Modanse](#) by the Bolshoi prima ballerina Svetlana Zakharova. The programme consists of two one-act ballets — [Come Un Respirò](#) to music by Georg Friedrich Händel, choreography by Mauro Bigonzetti, and [Gabrielle Chanel](#) to music by Ilya Demutsky, choreography by Yuri Possokhov.

The title role in [Gabrielle Chanel](#) performed by Svetlana Zakharova; the main parts by Ana Turazashvili, Mikhail Lobukhin, Jacopo Tissi, Vyacheslav Lopatin, Denis Savin.

Author of libretto, Director — Alexei Frandetti

Set Designer: Maria Tregubov

Costume Design: CHANEL

Ana Turazashvili, Mikhail Lobukhin, Jacopo Tissi, Vyacheslav Lopatin, Denis Savin, as well as Bruna Cantanhede Gaglianone, Victoria Litvinova, Karim Abdullin,

Alexei Gainutdinov, Anton Gainutdino, Vasily Danilchuk joined Svetlana Zakharova in the ballet *Come Un Respiro*.

Costume Designer: Helena de Medeiros

Accompanied by the Bolshoi Orchestra conducted by Pavel Klinichev.

June 6, Dobrograd Open Stage (Vladimirsky region), a traditional concert of the Bolshoi Orchestra with the opera soloists conducted by the Bolshoi Music Director – Chief Conductor Tugan Sokhiev took place. The programme included musical fragments from operas *The Tsar's Bride* and *The Tale of Tsar Saltan* by Rimsky-Korsakov, *Iolanta* by Tchaikovsky, *Carmen* by Bizet, *Gianni Schicchi* and *Turandot* by Puccini, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* by Rossini, *Lakme* by Delibes, *Rigoletto* by Verdi.

The Bolshoi Opera soloists took part in the concert: Dinara Alieva, Anna Aglatova, Oleg Dolgov, Igor Golovatenko, Yulia Mazurova, Ilya Selivanov.

[See the concert and programme details](#)

July 7 at 15:00, the Bolshoi Theatre and BMW Group Russia held the international festival in front of the Bolshoi in the Theatre Square for the second time.

This year BMW Group celebrates 20 years of working in Russia. The first Moscow open-air festival in the Theatre Square took part on June 24 last year and gathered more than 8000 spectators for an immense concert. A recording of the concert is available on [YouTube](#).

[BMW Opera Without Borders at BMW Group Russia website](#)



The second concert BMW Opera Without Borders took place 7 July 2019

The livestream of BMW Opera Without Borders-2019 will be available at [BMW Russia Youtube channel](#).

The booking for the International Contemporary Dance Festival [DanceInversion](#) has started. The festival will be held in Moscow from September 10 to November

3 at the Bolshoi Theatre, Stanislavsky MAMT, RAMT, Helikon Opera and the Theatre of Nations.



This year DanceInversion celebrates its 20th anniversary. During these years five continents, 30 countries, 78 companies and almost 90 choreographers have been presented. This milestone edition of DanceInversion will open at the Bolshoi with the Chinese version of *The Rite of Spring* by the Peacock Company. [Tickets](#)

The results of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Programme auditions were announced on June 26. After the 3rd round of the additional entry for the season 2019/20 in the speciality category “solo singer” the following persons were selected: Uliana Biryukova, Atash Garaev, Nicolai Zemlyansky, Alexei Kulagin. This year the opera talent-factory YOP led by Dmitry Vdovin, turned 10. Its graduates sing at the best opera stages of the world.



The Glinka Opera and Ballet Theatre company after the performance of *Paquita* on June 26. Photo [FB](#)

Chelyabinsk Glinka Opera and Ballet Theatre held its summer tour at the Bolshoi New Stage. They

performed [Carmina Burana](#) by Carl Orff, their joint production with France Concert (France), and [Paquita](#) to the music by Deldevez and Minkus, choreography by Yuri Klevtsov with original choreography by Marius Petipa.

[See more about the tour](#)

July 4–7, the Historic Stage – [the tour of Rostov State Musical Theatre](#) (Rostov-on-Don).

July 4 – [Giovanna d'Arco](#) by Giuseppe Verdi.

[See more at the RSMT website](#)

July 5 and 6 – the ballet [Esmeralda](#) choreography by Vladimir Burmeister to the music by Cesare Pugni, Reinhold Glière and Sergei Vasilenko, premiere of May 31, 2019.

[Esmeralda at the RSMT website](#)

July 7 – [Khovanshchina](#) by Modest Mussorgsky whose anniversary is celebrated this year all over the world.

[See more about the tour programme](#)

July 29 – 17 August – [the Bolshoi Theatre large-scale tour in Great Britain](#).

Famous ballets [Spartacus](#), [The Swan Lake](#), [Don Quixote](#) and comic ballet in two acts by Dmitry Shostakovich [The Bright Stream](#) will be performed at Covent Garden.



The Bright Stream. Photo by Damir Yusupov

August 7th, 8th – The Bright Stream by Shostakovich. Choreographer: Alexei Ratmansky Libretto by Adrian Piotrovsky and Fyodor Lopukhov. Designer: Boris Messerer Music Director: Pavel Sorokin.

Judith Mackrell in the article “Pages of History. DANCE of DEATH” wrote about it: “With its dancing farmers and cycling dog, Shostakovich thought his ballet The Bright Stream would delight Stalin. Instead, one of its creators was sent to the gulag. Now the Bolshoi has finally resurrected it. [The Guardian, 19.07.2006](#)

The premiere of The Bright Stream took place in Leningrad Minor Opera and Ballet Theatre on April 4, 1935.



Both audience and critics accepted the ballet eagerly so it was decided to be staged on the country’s main stage.

On November 30, same year, The Bright Stream was presented at the Bolshoi, adding to the leading soloists’ repertoire. The cast for the main parts included Asaf and Sulamith Messerer, Sofia Golovkina, Aleksei Yermolaev, Zinaida Vasilieva and Pyotr Gusev – one of the future artistic directors of the Bolshoi Ballet. Audience enjoyed the merry performance, and its choreographer Fyodor Lopukhov looked forward to become the artistic director of the Bolshoi ballet company. All the more unexpected was the denouement which destroyed The Bright Stream. Stalin had forbidden it. A smasher appeared in the country’s main communist party newspaper Pravda on February 6, 1936. They thought the comedy with traditional nice balletic extravagance to be a parody on happy Soviet life like it was customary to picture it then.

The idea to revive the ballet by Shostakovich belongs to Alexei Ratmansky. He was enchanted by the music and, as he himself confessed, saw and heard all libretto twists and turns in it. The premiere took place on April 18, 2003. For Ratmansky, the main quality of The Stream music was its balletability as if it was Minkus yet a genius one. They used to stage full-scale classical ballets to music by Minkus. And Ratmansky complied the cannon, even paying tribute to traditional balletic pantomime. It may be postmodernism yet a light-breathing or rather light-pacing one.

The one to dive gladly into kitch-parody element was the set designer Boris Messerer, whose father and aunt danced, of course, in quite different setting back in 1930s. “Restored” slogans and posters of the Soviet era are pointedly smiling to taglines and bumpers of our time.

Events

June 18, 29 and 20, the Historic Stage – the ballet [Don Quixote](#) to the music by Ludwig Minkus, choreography by Marius Petipa, Alexander Gorsky, choreographic version of 2016 by Alexei Fadeyechev. Conductor – Pavel Klinichev. [Casts](#)

June 25 and 26, the Historic Stage — opera [Carmen](#) by Georges Bizet, libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy based on the same-name novel by Prosper Mérimée.

Music Director — the Chief Conductor and Music Director of Bolshoi Theatre Tugan Sokhiev.

[See more](#)

Conductor — Anton Grishanin.

[Casts](#)

June 29 – July 2, the Historical Stage — [Un Ballo in Maschera](#) by Giuseppe Verdi.

Director and Set Designer — [Davide Livermore](#).

Music Director — [Giacomo Sagripanti](#).

The Bolshoi premiere was on November 22, 2017

[See more](#) about the opera's history and the idea of the performance creators in Dial "B-M" (Ballo in Maschera) for Murder.

[Casts](#)

Conductor — Anton Grishanin (all days)

On June 30 the guests of the 2nd International Forum Development of Parliamentarism attended the performance within the cultural programme organised by the host party.



Otar Jorjikia as Richard, Damiana Mizzi as Oscar, Dinara Alieva as Amelia, conductor Anton Grishanin, Svetlana Shilova as Ulrica (debut), Elchin Azizov as Renato (debut) after the performance of the opera by Verdi Un Ballo in Maschera, the Historical Stage, June 29.
Photo /Instagram Damiana Mizzi

The Forum was held in Moscow on July 1–3. The extensive international event was organised upon the initiative of the RF State Duma.

[International Forum Development of Parliamentarism at the RF State Duma website](#) (12 photos)

Opera [La Bohème](#) by Giacomo Puccini staged by Jean-Romain Vesperini was presented at the New Stage on June 19, 20, 21 and 22 (14:00).

Conductor — the Chief Conductor and Music Director of Bolshoi Theatre Tugan Sokhiev.

[Casts](#)

[Video of the premiere](#)



Curtain calls after the performance La Bohème; the New Stage. Photo /Instagram Mariangela Sicilia

June 28, 29 (12:00 and 19:00), 30, the New Stage — [La Sylphide](#) to the music by Herman Severin Levenskiold.

Choreographic version by [Johan Kobborg](#).

Designer — [Peter Farmer](#)

[Performance details](#)

[Casts](#)

Conductors — the music director of the ballet Pavel Klinichev (June 28 and 29, 12:00), Alexander Soloviev (June 29, 19:00, June 30)

Livestream video of La Sylphide (November 11, 2018), made with participation of Pathé Live available on [YouTube](#)



Evgenia Obraztsova and Vyacheslav Lopatin in La Sylphide Photo by Mikhail Logvinov

July 1–4, the New Stage — concerts of the world famous [State Academic Folk Dance Company of Igor Moiseyev](#), a unique company created by the Bolshoi Ballet former soloist (1924–39) Igor Moiseyev in 1937.

[The concert programme for July 1 and 2 \(*.pdf\)](#)

[The concert programme for July 3 and 4 \(*.pdf\)](#)



[State Academic Folk Dance Company of Igor Moiseyev](#)

July 5 and 6, the New Stage — The ballet by [Jean-Christophe Maillot](#) [Taming of the Shrew](#) to music by Dmitry Shostakovich.

Set Designer — [Ernest Pignon-Ernest](#).

Costume Designer — [Augustin Maillot](#).

Lighting and Video Projection — [Dominique Drillot](#).

Dramatist — [Jean Rouaud](#).



Denis Savin as Petruchio. Photo by Damir Yusupov

June 25 and 27, Beethoven Hall — concert of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Programme and Domingo Kafritiz Youth Opera Programme of the Washington State Opera — [German Chamber Music Concert: Richard Wagner, Gustav Mahler, Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg](#).

[The concert details](#)

June 26 at Pokrovsky Chamber Stage — Giacomo Puccini one-act opera night — [Il Tabarro](#). Stage Directors Boris Pokrovsky and Igor Merkulov) and [Gianni Schicchi](#). Stage Directors Boris Pokrovsky and [Valery Fedorenko](#)).

Music Director — [Vladimir Agronsky](#).

[Cast](#)

[Gianni Schicchi cast](#)

Conductors — Vladimir Agronsky (Il Tabarro) and [Alexei Vereshchagin](#) (Gianni Schicchi)

June 29 and 30, Pokrovsky Chamber Stage — a one-act opera by Richard Strauss [Ariadne auf Naxos](#).

Stage Director — Hans-Joachim Frey

Music Director and Conductor — Alexei Vereshchagin

[Casts](#)

July 6 and 7, Pokrovsky Chamber Stage — opera by Vladimir Kobekin [Kholstomer](#). Libretto by the composer after the novel of the same name by Leo Tolstoy .

Stage Director, Choreographer — [Mikhail Kislyarov](#).

Music Director — [Vladimir Agronsky](#).

[About the performance](#)



Kholstomer at the Chamber Stage

Press analysis:

Russian mass media

[TASS](#): The Bolshoi Theatre opened its tour in Australia with the legendary Spartacus. The hall of the Lyric Theatre of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, which seats 2,100 visitors, was completely full.

The ballet company director Makhar Vaziev noted that the ballet to Khachaturian's music staged by Grigorovich had been present in the repertoire of the theatre for more than half a century, which is almost a unique case. "Spartacus remains a favourite of the audience — and not only the domestic one. The performance has travelled to dozens of countries in triumph, having completed several orbits around the Earth," Vaziev noted. "Time is passing, generations are changing, and this great ballet is being passed on to new performers who will perform it before the Australian audience".

[The English version of the Russian news agency TASS](#) also publishes the message.

[Rossia – Kultura](#)

[TASS](#) (June 25, 17:38) Australian aborigines greeted the Bolshoi Ballet with ritual dances.

[SM News](#)

[Instanews Media](#)

“The Bolshoi Ballet on tour in Australia flashed *Jewels* by George Balanchine,” [TASS reports](#).

Olga Svistunova reports from Brisbane: “Three shows of *Spartacus* with different cast of performers have already taken place, and all the three performances were received fantastically by the Australians”, said the Bolshoi Theatre ballet company director Makhar Vaziev. √√”

The first performance of *Jewels* in the hall which seats 2,100 visitors was sold out. And as soon as the curtain opened, the audience literally gasped at the beauty that had opened before their eyes. At first, the audience admired *Emeralds* with bated breath, after the intermission they attentively looked at *Rubies*, and in the final act the spectators were delighted with the magnificence of *Diamonds*.

√√ As the director of the Queensland Performing Arts Centre John Kotzas previously assured TASS, “a full house is guaranteed to all the Bolshoi Ballet tour performances, tickets for which are almost completely sold out”. According to him, spectators from Sydney, Melbourne and many other Australian cities and neighbouring countries will arrive in Brisbane to see the Moscow dancers. √√ According to his calculations, 22 000 spectators in total will watch the performances during the Bolshoi Theatre tour. In addition, the live broadcast of *Spartacus*, which will be held on July 6 in nine cultural centres of Queensland, will help to significantly increase the audience – by about 15 000 people. It is noteworthy that the entrance to the show will be free.

See also:

[TASS](#) (Olga Svistunova) Australian Aborigines Greeted The Bolshoi Ballet With Ritual Dances

[Orpheus Radio](#): *Jewels* Shines In Australia (based on the TASS reports)

The State Duma at the plenary meeting on Thursday, June 27, supported the bill on counteracting theatrical speculators in the third and final reading, [TASS reports](#).

The bill will be enacted on 1 September.

All the main mass media quote the Director General of the Bolshoi Theatre on this. “The law will create a serious barrier to the resale of tickets,” says Vladimir Urin. “Everyone who sells tickets without permission will be outlawed”

www.spb.kp.ru

www.spb.kp.ru

The topic is covered by dozens of media.

[Rossia–Kultura](#)

[RIA Novosti](#)

[RT in Russian](#)

The Director General of the Bolshoi Theatre was a guest of The Cult of the Personality show on the [Mir 24](#) TV channel.

The conversation touched upon the prospects of working with Alexei Ratmansky and Dmitri Tcherniakov, about opening a branch in Kaliningrad and the assistance of the Bolshoi “resource” in establishing an independent creative team with artistic leaders, personnel potential and creating a “strong professional independent creative company”, about the pricing policy for the Bolshoi tickets, the Board of Trustees, sponsors, the growth of the theatre’s income, the importance of the ability to “meet and talk with people and answer the most inconvenient questions”.



Vladimir Urin: “When choosing a repertoire, the Bolshoi Theatre does not divide the viewer into a domestic and a foreign one”

The premiere of Svetlana Zakharova’s *Modanse* show remains one of the topics discussed in the media – critics do not stint in their praise of the ballet company of the Bolshoi who participated in the project.



Svetlana Zakharova in the *Gabrielle Chanel* ballet.
Photo by Pavel Benyakov / [Izvestia](#)

A review of the show was published by [Nezavisimaya Gazeta](#). The author of the article is Natalia Zvenigorskaya.

“London and Beijing — these world capitals will be soon visited by Coco Chanel, born in Moscow. The Gabrielle Chanel performance, dedicated to the great Mademoiselle, danced on the Bolshoi stage by prima ballerina Svetlana Zakharova and her colleagues from the Bolshoi Theatre.”

[Izvestia](#)

[Izvestia](#)

[Teatral](#)

The ballet critics continue to review the première of the evening of choreographic masterpieces of [George Balanchine](#) and [Maurice Bejart](#).

[Ekran I Stzena](#)

Musical critic Alexander Matusevich, who already expressed his opinion (on the [ClassicalMusicNews.ru portal](#)) about [La Perichole](#) marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Jacques Offenbach on the Chamber Stage earlier, publishes his opinion on the show on the pages of [Kultura](#) newspaper.

Press reviews continue to cover the Bolshoi premières.



Scene from the Symphony in C.
Photo by Damir Yusupov

“A talented and daring young company is the most vivid impression of the last season’s première”.

[portal-kultura.ru](#)

[Parlamentskaya Gazeta](#) and other media report about Un Ballo in Maschera performance by the Bolshoi Theatre in connection with the visits of delegations from International Forum Development of Parliamentarism on June 30.

[DumaTV](#) (videoreport)

[GosDuma](#) (photo report)

Final concerts and awarding of the laureates of the 16th Tchaikovsky International Competition, where the soloists of the Bolshoi Youth Opera Programme were the winners in solo singing, is a focus of media attention.

Report by Maria Babalova in [Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#):

“The results of the competition rightly indicate that the Bolshoi Youth Opera Programme and the Atkins programme in the Mariinsky Theatre are particularly interesting and productive today — their artists had the most thoughtful performances in all rounds.

Irina Muravyova states in the same newspaper: “21-year-old Russian mezzo-soprano singer Maria Barakova became the absolute discovery of this competition. Student of Albina Shagimuratova the charming soprano singer Aigul Khismatullina from Kazan won the second prize. The soprano singer Maria Motolygina, whose performance, according to many, was worthy of the first prize, took third place. [RG](#)).

See also:

[Kultura TV](#)

[rg.ru](#)

[Vesti.Ru](#)

[Radio Kultura](#)

[Orpheus Radio](#)

[TASS](#)

[Kommersant](#)

[Kommersant](#)

[Vecherniaya Moskva](#)

[Izvestia](#)

and other publications.

The closing of the 16th Tchaikovsky International Competition, the award ceremony and the gala concert of the laureates from the Moscow Zaryadye Concert Hall aired by [Kultura TV channel](#) in the online broadcast on June 28.

Closing of the 16th Tchaikovsky International Competition on [YouTube](#).

Pianist Alexander Kantorov (22), who won the Grand Prix of the Tchaikovsky Competition — the first Frenchman to receive this prestigious award — is the hero of [France Musique](#), [Orpheus](#) and many other Russian and foreign reports.

The soloists of the youth company of the Bolshoi Theatre will present a special concert programme, prepared jointly with the Georgiy Avvakumov Kamchatka Chamber Orchestra in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, as reported by [KamInform News Agency](#) (Kamchatka Territory). The performance will take place within the framework of the Region. Kamchatka Art Festival to be held in Petropavlovsk—Kamchatsky from September 21 to September 28.

The media report on the tour of the Chelyabinsk Company on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre (June 24–26). [ClassicalMusicNews.Ru](#) publishes Alexander Matusevich’s article Chelyabinsk Landing.

Press analysis:

international mass media

The Australian newspaper [The Advertiser](#) (Australia) includes a 9:24min video about the Bolshoi Ballet in Australia [Link to the video](#).

The video includes interviews with Makhar Vaziev, Denis Rodkin, Alyona Kovalyova translated to ENG by Katerina Novikova; an interview with the director of QPAC John Kotzas where he talks about the importance and complications of such a tour organisation on a proper level. John Kotzas talks about the arrival of the Bolshoi Ballet and the simulcast of the Bolshoi Ballet that will be taking place. He also praises Makhar Vaziev as an amazing world artist. The video includes clips of Bolshoi Ballet dancers doing class and extracts from Sparatcus and Jewels.

[News.com.au](#)



Makhar Vaziev in video report on [The Advertiser](#)

The Australian local radio station [4BC Radio Podcast](#) broadcasts a 6:34 minute report as a podcast hosted by Mark Braybrook who interviews John Kotzas head of QPAC. John Kotzas says, “This is probably the best ballet company in the world. Spartacus, the epic tale of a Roman slave’s fight for freedom, is considered the world renowned Bolshoi’s Ballet’s signature performance.”

The Australian newspaper the [Brisbane Times](#) publishes an article by Lydia Lynch who reports: “A hundred of the world’s best dancers will squeeze onto QPAC’s stage for 13 performances over the next two weeks, performing two separate ballets from their repertoire, Spartacus and Jewels”.

“So many dancers are in this show, Spartacus. Your stage is a little bit smaller than our stage but we already had a look at it and we hope to fit all our dancers onto your stage,” Bolshoi director Makhar Vaziev said, through a translator.”



At the formal party at Queensland Performing Arts Centre

The on-line specialised entertainment news publication [Broadway World](#) reports: “Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) rolled out the red carpet today as Moscow’s Bolshoi Ballet arrived at the Centre ahead of its exclusive 2019 QPAC International Series season. The Bolshoi Ballet will present two spectacular ballets from their repertoire Spartacus and Jewels from (26 June to 7 July). QPAC Chief Executive John Kotzas welcomed the acclaimed Russian ballet company to Brisbane:

“QPAC is elated to roll out the red carpet for the mighty Bolshoi Ballet’s return visit. From the close of the Bolshoi’s highly successful visit in 2013, our discussion with the company quickly turned to how soon they could return to Queensland. It was just a matter of finding time in their demanding international performance schedule,” said Mr Kotzas.”

The UK newspaper [The Guardian](#) (UK) publishes a photo gallery of the Bolshoi Ballet in Brisbane. “Russia’s globally renowned Bolshoi Ballet is in Queensland performing two ballets from the company’s repertoire: the bombastic Spartacus by Yuri Grigorovich, and the glittering triple bill Jewels by George Balanchine. Five 40-foot containers worth of sets and costumes travelled by sea from Moscow to Brisbane, where they reunited with 150 members of the company, including 10 principal dancers. The Bolshoi Ballet is accompanied by the Queensland Symphony Orchestra.”

The Australian online news publication [Mirage News](#) reports: “Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has offi-

cially welcomed Russia's acclaimed Bolshoi Ballet back to Brisbane as part of QPAC's 2019 International Series.

"The Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and Tourism and Events Queensland is proud to again bring the world's most illustrious ballet company to the Queensland Performing Arts Centre," Ms Palaszczuk said. "Audiences are in for a treat as the Bolshoi performs two works from its repertoire, the epic Spartacus and the beautiful Jewels."

The Australian newspaper [Courier Mail](#) publishes several articles about the Bolshoi Ballet in Brisbane.

[Courier Mail](#) publishes a report by Phil Brown who writes, "Bolshoi Ballet dancers Igor Tsvirko and Margarita Shrayner are lovers off stage and on stage in their lead roles in Spartacus at QPAC." "Tsvirko, 29, a leading soloist with the famed Russian company and Shrayner, 25, a first soloist, are boyfriend and girlfriend. And though they have danced together before, tonight in the Lyric Theatre at QPAC, at the opening gala for the Bolshoi's Brisbane season, they will perform the lead roles in Spartacus together for the first time."

[Courier Mail](#). "They'll be rolling out a real red carpet on Thursday night in Brisbane for the highly-anticipated opening of the Bolshoi Ballet's Spartacus. Invited guests will be treated to pre-show and post-show parties at QPAC. Among those on the list are ConocoPhillips top gun Nick McKenna, MinterEllison boss Andrew Rentoul, Heritage Bank CFO Paul Williams, Singapore Airlines regional VP Phillip Goh and Moet Hennessy state sales manager Ralph Anderson. No surprise that Queensland Ballet's Li Cunxin, along with more than a few polliies, also plan to attend."

[The Financial Times](#) newspaper (UK) publishes an article by Hester Lacey and an interview with Alyona Kovalyova. "Alyona Kovalyova, 20, was accepted into the Bolshoi Ballet directly after graduating with distinction from the Vaganova Academy in St-Petersburg, her home city, in 2016. Her principal roles with the ballet have included Myrtha in Giselle and Odette/Odile in Swan Lake." Alyona Kovalyova dances in 'Swan Lake' at the Royal Opera House, August 3 (matinee) and August 14 (evening); roh.org.uk/Bolshoi".

The Italian online specialised arts and culture publication [L'Ape Musicale](#) publishes a review by Irina Sorokina of the Bolshoi Ballet's performance of Balanchine's Symphony in C and Bejart's Gaité Parisienne at the Bolshoi Theatre. "The company of Bolshoi can be proud of many great artistic dancers such as Ekaterina Krysanova, Yulia Stepanova, Maria Vinogradova, Vyacheslav Lopatin, Vladislav Lantratov (the latter recently injured) and many others. Symphony in C was an excellent opportunity for each of them to show off with



Alyona Kovalyova. Photo by Mikhail Logvinov / [FT](#)

regards to both elegance and style and brilliant technique" "Needless to say how good are the Bolshoi male dancers who do not spare themselves in technical feats: Mark Chino, Dmitry Dorokhov, Anton Gainutdinov, Pyotr Gusev, Ivan Alexeyev, Igor Pugachov." "Gaité Parisienne is a true theatre phenomenon with more than twenty roles" "But two of the performers deserve special praise: Vyacheslav Lopatin in the role of Offenbach and Denis Rodkin in that of the father of the protagonist Bim."

FULL Russian translation of the parts of the article that are about the Bolshoi Ballet.

The French online specialised culture news publication [Culture 31](#) (France) publishes an article by Hubert Stoecklin who reviews a concert at the Toulouse Halle-aux-Grains on June 10, 2019 of Borodin, Rachmaninov, Mussorgsky and Ravel by the Orchestre National du Capitole conducted by Tugan Sokhiev. "Tugan Sokhiev directs with his bare hands and seems to get from everyone a music as beautiful as it is moving." "Each solo instrumentalist gives his life and the gestures of Tugan Sokhiev tell the music and mini dramas contained in the score with a beauty in every moment. His hands

seem to create the sound, arranging greedily colours and nuances in a narrativity constantly revived.”

The German newspaper [RP Rheinische Post Online](#) (Germany) publishes a review by Wolfram Goertz of a concert of the Berliner Philharmonic conducted by Tugan Sokhiev at the Düsseldorfer Tonhalle. The reviewer asks if this is the best orchestra in the world and says that yes they are one of the best.

The German newspaper [West Deutsche Zeitung](#) publishes a review by Christian Oscar Gazsi Laki of the same concert. The reviewer also asks if the Berlin Philharmonic is the best orchestra in the world. “Tugan Sokhiev, without a baton conducting Russian, seemed to fit very well here. With elegant—looking, sometimes refined — perhaps only very rarely mannered — movements he directed the Philharmonic by the flowery scent of the not uncomplex score.”

The Spanish online specialised dance news publication [Danza Ballet](#) reports: “The life and work of fashion legend Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel was celebrated at a new ballet premiere at the Bolshoi in Moscow on Saturday June 22. The ballet highlights Russia’s love for the designer and the protagonist is the prima ballerina Svetlana Zakharova. The one-act performance choreographed by Yuri Possokhov pays homage to the celebrated founder of the fashion house that bears her name and presents an impressive display of Chanel costumes created especially for the ballet. The Bolshoi created eighty-five costumes for the performance using Chanel’s designs, making sure they did not impede the movements of the dancers. Created specifically for Zakharova, the ballet Gabrielle Chanel tells the most memorable moments of the work and the life of the French fashion designer, who died in 1971 at the age of 87.”

The Italian online specialised dance news publication [Danza and Danza](#) (Italy) reports on Sleeping Beauty at La Scala and appearance on Svetlana Zakharova as Aurora: “The performances will be an opportunity to admire on stage in the leading role Polina Semionova at La Scala on June 26th and 29th and, on July 5th and 9th, as Aurora, Svetlana Zakharova.”

Briefly

The première of The Tale of Tsar Saltan by Rimsky—Korsakov directed by Dmitri Tcherniakov was held on the stage of the Brussels Theatre La Monnaie, as report-

ed by Sergey Khodnev in the [Kommersant](#) newspaper. “The director, while preserving the fairy-tale plot as a whole, at the same time made it completely different — both modern, and eternal, and not fairy-tale bitter,” the review says.



Bogdan Volkov (Prince Gvidon) and Svetlana Aksyonova (Queen Militrisa) in the opera The Tale of Tsar Saltan. Photo by Forster / La Monnaie De Munt

The director of YOP Dmitry Vdovin, baritone singer Ilya Kutjukhin (in 2014–17 the soloist of the Bolshoi YOP) and other artists take part in the Bregenz Festival of Arts / Bregenzer Festspiele, which is held annually in the Austrian city of Bregenz. A special feature of the festival is the floating stage on Lake Constance.



On July 6, Dmitry Vdovin will hold a workshop at the Bregenz Opera Studio. Photo by [Ilya Kutjukhin](#)

On July 7, the great Elena Obraztsova would have turned 80 years old.

[Rossiyskaya Gazeta](#) publishes an article by Maria Babalova titled Requiem for Carmen. “Natural, direct and at the same time a great opera singer Elena Obraztsova, born in strict and cold Leningrad, conquered the world with her hypnotic voice and the spontaneity of her nature, easily combining the victorious charm of a real diva with a truly feminine temperament”.

[The Kultura newspaper](#) prepared a big report in honour of Elena Obraztsova. The author of the Exemplary Prima Donna article is Alexander Matusевич.

The newspaper also offers the fragments of interviews from different years.

Conductor Teodor Currentzis wrote a farewell letter to the staff and audience of the Perm Opera and Ballet Theatre, in which he spoke about the lack of understanding on the part of the authorities of the Perm Territory. The letter is published on the [theatre website](#).

Film director and screenwriter Alexander Sokurov spoke about the departure of Teodor Currentzis from his position as artistic director of the Perm Theatre in the [Teatr magazine](#).

Currentzis interview in [Forbes Life](#)

[Vedomosti](#)

[Kommersant](#)

and many others.

The Chekhov Festival takes place in Moscow: [RIA Novosti](#) reports about its ballet performances. The Sadler’s Wells Theatre from London will bring The Quiet Evening of Dance ballet to Moscow staged by world-famous choreographer William Forsythe. The ballet consists of two parts. For this unusual programme that unites the former and the new works of the master, Forsythe came up with something resembling a chamber music concert in form, — seven dancers are engaged in the ballet. The performances will be held from July 9 to July 11 at the Mossovet Theatre. /./”

The English National Ballet will present the famous Giselle directed and choreographed by the famous contemporary choreographer Akram Khan, who staged the ballet to music by Vincenzo Lamagna and based on the original ballet by Adolphe Adam. Today’s Giselle is the latest work by Akram Khan, who has already been awarded the Laurence Olivier Prize.

Diana Vishneva presented the dance performance [Sleeping Beauty Dreams](#) at the Stanislavsky Electrotheatre. Together with the ballerina, the project was presented by choreographer Edward Clug and producer Eduard Ratnikov. The performance will be shown on the Mariinsky-2 stage in Saint Petersburg on September 14

and 15, on September 20 the show will move to the Crocus City Hall in Moscow, the performance will then leave for the Russian regions, and then to the USA, Canada, Latin America, Europe and Asia. The world première of the Sleeping Beauty Dreams was held in Miami in December 2018.



Scene from Sleeping Beauty Dreams.
Photo provided by the organisers

The programme of the Glyndebourne Festival, which takes place in England, this year includes the Il Barbiere di Siviglia opera by Gioacchino Rossini, the director of the present production — Sinead O’Neill, the conductor — Rafael Paillard, where the Bolshoi Theatre guest soloist, YOP graduate Andrei Zhilikhovsky will perform as Figaro.

Read more about all the operas on the [festival website](#).

Frenchman Dominique Meyer, the acting director of the Vienna Opera, has been approved as the new director of La Scala.



Dominique Meyer. Photo /Izvestia

Meyer achieved impressive results at the Vienna Opera — he increased theatre attendance to more than

half a million spectators a year and launched broadcasts of opera performances in cinemas. The 64-year-old top manager will move to Milan in 2020. There Alexander Pereira (71) will hand over to him during a one year period.

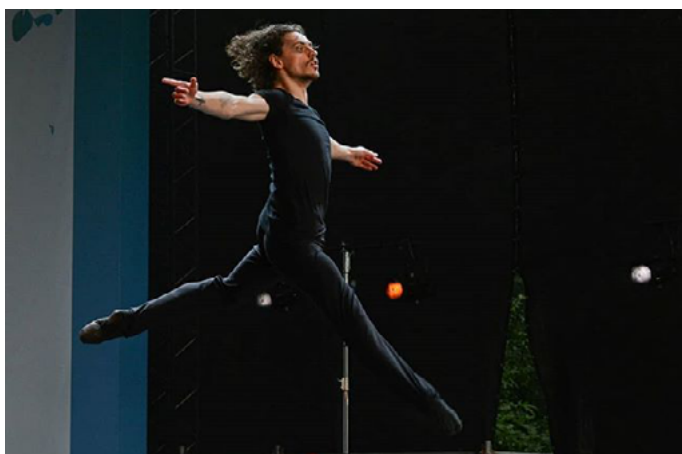
“The Austrian wanted to extend the contract with La Scala, but the administrative board of the theatre decided to get rid of Pereira, whose fate had most likely been decided by the failed Arabian funds deal,” reports [Orpheus](#) (Irina Stolyarova).

See also interview in [Izvestia](#): “Modern opera performance is a very expensive pleasure”: Director of the Vienna Opera Dominique Meyer about the balance between art and business and the benefits of working without a music director.

June 28 marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of Carlotta Grisi (1819–1899) — the first Giselle.

[Alastair Macaulay writes about the ballerina:](#)

“Critics noted that Grisi seemed to dance for the dance, which undoubtedly inspired Theophile Gautier who was in love with her (he later married her sister) to come up with a script for Giselle with his theme of Vili-sa, who dances men to death, a heroine in conflict between saving her lover and her own passion for dance. Perrault later created Esmeralda (1844) in London for her; Esmeralda was also to dance at some point while her heart is broken ... / ... / Career moved her from London and Paris to Saint Petersburg and Warsaw. She retired at the age of 34, having become pregnant by Prince Radziwill. She already had a daughter from Perrault, but she died young. She also had an affair with her main partner in the Paris Opera, Lucien Petipa, the elder brother of the now famous Marius...”



Sergei Polunin spoke at the 5th International Arts Festival in Klin on June 29. Photo / [Instagram press_mo](#)

On August 26, the première of the Prokofiev’s Romeo and Juliet staged by Johan Kobborg will take place at the Arena di Verona.

In a big interview with Dance Europe, Kobborg reports that a cast of 24 dancers and extras has already been formed. Sergei Polunin (Romeo), Alina Cojocaru (Juliet), Nikolai Gaifullin (Tybalt), Valentino Zucchetti (Mercutio).

Staging by David Umemoto (Canada).

Fragment of a rehearsal with Sergei Polunin on Johan Kobborg’s [Facebook](#)

The show will run until September 7. [Programme](#)



Johan Kobborg before Arena di Verona, June. Photo / Facebook

“I have three wives — opera, drama and cinema — they come to my bed alternately,” said Franco Zeffirelli. Quotes of the great director, whom Florence said farewell to on July 17, collected by [Sobesednik](#).



Zeffirelli Forever. Photo / [Sobesednik](#)

Roberto Bolle will present his program [Roberto Bolle and Friends](#) at the Arena di Verona on July 16 and 17.

Also this year, performances of his programme will take place:

On July 9, 10, 11 in the [Baths of Caracalla](#) (Rome)

On July 13 at the [Square of the Most Holy Annunciation](#) (Piazza della Santissima Annunziata) in Florence (as part of MusArt Festival 2019).



[Roberto Bolle – Arena di Verona–2019](#)
Photo by Andrej Uspenski

The 39th Montpellier Danse International Contemporary Dance Festival opened in [Montpellier](#). This year it takes place under the sign of Merce Cunningham: the festival celebrates the 100th anniversary of the birth of the great American choreographer. Tatiana Kuznetsova reports From Montpellier (Dancing With The Mind, [Kommersant](#)).



«The performance of Merce Cunningham Summerspace (1958) has turned out not to have lost integrity and radiance.» Photo by Michel Cavalca /[Kommersant](#)

Today, the Moscow Department of Culture announced the extension of the contract with Anton Getman, general director of the Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Moscow Academic Music Theatre.

Tatiana Kuznetsova and Sergei Khodnev comment on the event in [Kommersant](#).

Debuts

[Don Quixote](#)

June 19

Eleonora Sevenard first appeared as Kitri.

Egor Geraschenko as Toreador

Bruna Cantanhede Gaglianone as a Street Dancer

June 20

Yulia Stepanova as Kitri; Ekaterina Besedina as Mercedes



Eleonora Sevenard debuted as Kitri, June 19.
Photo by Damir Yusupov

[La Boheme](#)

June 19

The soloist of Astrakhan State Opera and Ballet Theatre [Elena Razgulyaeva](#) first appeared as Mimi in the new production (she also sang on June 21)

June 20

[Mariangela Sicilia](#) (Italy) debuted as Mimi, [Iván Ayón Rivas](#) (Peru) — as Rudolf in La Boheme by the Bolshoi. [Vasily Ladyuk](#) debuted as Marcello in the production by Jean-Romain Vesperini. They also took part in the performance on June 22 (14:00)

Alexander Borodin as Colline

[Carmen](#)

June 25

German bass [Andreas Bauer Kanabas](#) first appeared at the Bolshoi as Escamillo (June 26 also).

La Sylphide

June 29 (12:00)

Xenia Mineyeva (Sorokina) – Madge, witch.

June 29 (19:00)

Maria Bogdanovich debuted in the title role.**Un Ballo in Maschera**

June 29

Tbilisi Opera soloist **Otar Jorjikia** first appeared at the Bolshoi as Richard (July 1 also).

Svetlana Shilova debuted as Ulrica.

Elchin Azizov debuted as Renato.

June 30

Igor Golovatenko as Renato.

Igor Podoplelov (joined the opera company in May 2019) debuted as Silvano.**Jewels** on stage at Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC).

July 3 (13:00) Antonina Chapkina – Rubies.

Spartacus on stage at Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC).

July 4 (19:30) Anastasia Denisova as Phrygia.

July 6 (13:00) Eleonora Sevenard as Phrygia.

July 6 (19:30) Olga Marchenkova as Aegina.

Taming of the Shrew

July 5 and 6

Guest ballerina **Ekaterina Petina** appeared in the title role (she danced Katharina in the premiere cast of Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo production in December 2017.)**The Tsar's Bride**

July 10

Andrei Potaturin as Gryaznoy, Bekhzod Davronov as Lykov, Denis Makarov as Sobakin, Elena Zelenskaya as Saburova, Alina Chertash as Dunyasha.

Cast alterations

La Boheme

On June 19 and 21 Elena Razgulyaeva appeared as Mimi, Dinara Alieva's performance was cancelled, Mariangela Sicilia – June 20 and 22.

Vasily Ladyuk appeared as Marcello on June 20 and 22. Aluda Todua's performance was cancelled

The Tsar's Bride

On July 9 Gevorg Hakobyan will appear as Gryaznoy. Elchin Azizov's performance is cancelled.

Birthdays

June 16 – the ballet company director, National Artist of Russia Makhar Vaziev

Makhar Vaziev Photo by Sasha Gusov

June 16 – ballerina, ballet-master Alla Osipenko**June 17** – composer Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971)

Igor Stravinsky in Hollywood. Getty Images

June 18 – the Bolshoi Opera soloist Aluda Todua**June 20** – composer, theatre conductor and cellist, the founder and the illustrious representative of French

operetta Jacques Offenbach (1819–1880) – 200th anniversary.

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

June 22 – director general of Stanislavsky Musical Theatre Anton Getman

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

June 23 – Anna Akhmatova (1889–1966) – 130th anniversary



The Portrait of Anna Akhmatova
by Konstantin Petrov–Vodkin

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



Boris Akimov in class. Photo from the private archive

June 25 – National Artist of the USSR Boris Akimov; the Bolshoi Ballet soloist (1965–1989), ballet mas-

ter-repetiteur (since 1989), artistic director of the Bolshoi (2000–2003) and Ballet Academy (2002–2005)

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

June 26 – ballerina, ballet master, a prominent dance tutor, author of the book Classical Dance Guidelines (1934) Agrippina Vaganova (1879–1951) – 140 anniversary of her birth

June 26 – pianist, Merited Artist of Russia Alexei Goribol

June 26 – choreographer Edward Clug This season he has staged the ballet Petrushka for the Bolshoi, in the season 244 he will work on the ballet Master and Margarita to music by Shostakovich and Schnittke (premiere is to be on May 21, 2020)



Edward Clug working on the ballet Petrushka

June 30 – ballet dancer, choreographer Yuri Smekalov

July 2 – Konstantin Shushakov, Bolshoi opera soloist



Konstantin Shushakov as Figaro.
The singer's photo on [Instagram](#)

July 3 – Denis Rodkin, principal dancer of the Bolshoi ballet



Denis Rodkin in the title role in Spartacus with Maria Vinogradova as Phrygia / [instagram](#)

July 3 – opera and chamber bass, mentor, National Artist of the USSR Mark Reizen (1895–1992); in 1930–1954 – the Bolshoi Opera soloist (up to 1985)



Mark Reizen (left) during World War I

July 4 – opera singer (bass), National Artist of the USSR Alexander Pirogov (1899–1964) – 120th anniversary of his birth. The Bolshoi Opera soloist in 1924–1955.



Alexander Pirogov as Ivan Susanin in his dressing room. The Bolshoi Theatre. 1939. Photo by Anatoly Garanin / RIA Novosti

July 4 – director, tutor, playwright, the Golden Mask and Stanislavsky Prize winner **Adolf Shapiro** – 80 anniversary in 2016 at the Historic Stage he staged *Manon Lescaut* by Giacomo Puccini.

July 6 – opera singer (dramatic mezzo soprano), National Artist of the USSR Tamara Sinyavskaya

July 6 – opera singer, National Artist of Russia Tatiana Erastova, in 1977–2017 – Bolshoi Opera soloist

July 7 – opera singer, National Artist of of the USSR Elena Obraztsova (1939–2015) – 80th anniversary of her birth



Elena Obraztsova as Maryna Mniszech in the opera *Boris Godunov* by Mussorgsky

July 7 – composer, opera and symphony conductor
Gustav Mahler (1860–1911)

July 9 – ballet dancer, National Artist of Russia
Dmitry Gudanov, 1998–2004 – Bolshoi Ballet soloist,
2004–2017 – Bolshoi Ballet principal)

June 10 – singer (tenore leggiero), tutor, National
Artist of the USSR Sergei Lemeshev (1902–1977); in 1931–
1957 – Bolshoi Opera soloist

July 12 – opera singer Olga Kulchinskaya (2013–
2014 – the Bolshoi YOP student, in 2014–2017 – the
Bolshoi Opera soloist)



Dmitry Gudanov as Basilio, Don Quixote.
Photo by Damir Yusupov