



Newsletter

Premiere

On December 10, 11, 12 and 13 the Bolshoi Theatre presented the first opera premiere of the 245 season at the Chamber Stage – [Les pêcheurs de perles](#) by Georges Bizet. Staged by Brad Cohen. Libretto by Eugène Cormon and Michel Carré, Music Director – [Alexey Vereshchagin](#). Director and Set Designer – [Vladislavs Nastavševs](#). Costume Designer – [Elissey Kostsov](#). Lighting Designer – [Anton Stikhin](#).

Casts

Following the tradition established by Boris Pokrovsky, the Bolshoi invites young directors for productions at the Chamber Stage.

Vladislavs Nastavševs received his drama training in St Petersburg in Leo Dodin's course and his directing training - in London at the Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design. He staged Mitya's Love based on the same-name story of Ivan Bunin and Boys Smell Like Oranges based on Guy Davenport's novelette at Dirty Deal Teatro (Latvia.) Upon Kirill Serebrennikov's invitation, this production was shown at the Vinzavod venue in Moscow within The Platform project. Since 2013, Nastavševs has worked at Gogol Centre on regular basis. He was the Golden Mask nominee for Best Drama Production/Big Form and the Best Director's Work in 2018 and 2020. Besides directing, Nastavševs usually designs his productions himself and writes music for them.

Alexey Vereshchagin is the Bolshoi Chamber Stage's conductor since 2018.

He was the conductor of the revival of the opera The Fair at Sorochyntsi by Musorgsky (2018) and Music Director of The Telephone. The Medium by Menotti (2019.) In May 2019 he took part in the staging of Eugene Onegin by Tchaikovsky assisting its Music Director Tugan Sokhiev (the Historic Stage.)

In November he conducted Il Barbiere di Siviglia by Rossini (the New Stage.)

[The premiere of Les pêcheurs de perles in photos by Pavel Rychkov](#)



On December 10 the Bolshoi Theatre presented the opera [Les pêcheurs de perles](#) by Georges Bizet at the Chamber Stage



Les pêcheurs de perles – singers and the production creators at curtain calls. Photo by Pavel Rychkov

[Video fragments of the performance of December 13](#)

The premiere series at the chamber Stage will continue on January 28-31, 2021.

Les pêcheurs de perles was Georges Bizet's first opera. The premiere took place on September 30, 1863.

The Russian premiere of the opera was in 1889 in St Petersburg and then, in 1903, at the Bolshoi.

[See more about the opera and the history of its productions at the Bolshoi](#)



Mikhail Lavrovsky. Photo /Instagram

On December 14, National Artist of the USSR. Ballet-master, tutor [Mikhail Lavrovsky](#) received the Golden Mask special prize For Outstanding Contribution to Development of Theatre Art. It is the most important Russian prize in the field of theatre. Covered by [TASS](#), [Ros-sia-K](#) and other sources.

[All winners of the award website](#)

Mikhail Lavrovsky in the programme [Life Line](#) on Rossia-Kultura TV channel (2017 r)

Lavrovsky was the guest of the Green Salon in 2015: the recording on the [Bolshoi YouTube channel](#).

The Bolshoi of Russia and Credit Suisse Bank established a [new prize for young opera singers this year](#). The Bolshoi Opera soloist Bekhzod Davronov became its first laureate.

The new project within a long-term cooperation of the Bolshoi and Credit Suisse is aimed at supporting prominent young talents.

The winner was selected by the jury for the prize – including the chief conductor and musical director of the Bolshoi Tugan Sokhiev, his assistant Makvala Kasrashvili, the Bolshoi Opera manager Lyudmila Talikova, the Bolshoi Opera casting director Olga Kapanina – who highly appreciated the creative achievements and potential of Bekhzod Davronov as well as his patient labour and commitment.

On Sunday, December 13, before the performance of Verdi's La Traviata at the Historic Stage, the Bolshoi general director Vladimir Urin awarded the singer.

The award includes personal coaching sessions with a world-class leading vocal teacher, a financial grant, and



Before the performance of La Traviata on December 13, the Bolshoi general director Vladimir Urin awarded Bekhzod Davronov with the First Prize of Credit Suisse.

Photo/Credit Suisse

the creative support of the world famous opera singer Il-dar Abdrazakov over a year. The Bolshoi Theatre is grateful to Credit Suisse which has encouraged young talents within its cultural strategy for more than 40 years, Credit Suisse supports major cultural projects and institutions all over the world actively, sharing its clients' interest in art and classical music. The cooperation between Bolshoi and Credit Suisse began in 2007, the bank is the theatre's senior sponsor. This year Credit Suisse allotted a special grant for the Bolshoi Young Artists Opera Program.

The Bolshoi Theatre and Credit Suisse Announced the First Prize Winner of Young Opera Singers' Award – see more at the Bolshoi [website](#).

The logo for Credit Suisse, featuring the text "CREDIT SUISSE" in a blue serif font, with a stylized blue bird-like symbol to the right.

The awarding of the young singer reported by:

[TASS](#)

[RIA](#) (Radio Sputnik)

[IA InterMedia](#)

[Kultura newspaper](#)

[Orpheus Radio](#) and other media.

The Bolshoi Orchestra member Marina Chudakova won the 2nd prize in the All-Russia Music Competition in the Harp category. [TASS](#): Screenings on Rosconsert YouTube channel and Kultura.RF online publication.

On December 16 the world celebrated the 250th birthday anniversary of the birth of Ludwig van Beethoven.

In our country, all memorial dates of the composer were always celebrated at the state level and in a respectively large scale. The Bolshoi's concert hall, which turns 100 in 2021, bears the name of the composer.

Since 1921 the Beethoven Hall hosted concerts of the Bolshoi chamber companies, outstanding national and foreign musicians performed there. Since 1966, meetings with writers, poets and actors of other theatres and foreign artists were held there, and in 1978 vocal and instrumental concerts resumed there. In the 1960s a portrait of Beethoven was commissioned from Moscow sculptor Pyotr Shapiro to grace the Beethoven Hall which was housed in the Bolshoi Imperial Foyer before reconstruction. Nowadays you can see this bust of the composer in the foyer of the new housing of Beethoven Hall where it was moved after the theatre reconstruction and restoration (2005-11.)



The composer's busts at the Bolshoi Beethoven Hall.

Photo by Ivan Semenyaka



At Beethoven Hall - artists and tutors of the Bolshoi Young Artists Opera Program with Makvala Kasrashvili and Dmitry Vdovin after concerts of German Music; May 2019. Photo /Instagram of Maria Barakova.

Events

December 9, 10, 11, 12, the Historic Stage – [La Traviata](#) by Giuseppe Verdi.

Conductor – chief conductor and music director of the Bolshoi Theatre [Tugan Sokhiev](#) (all days).

The premiere of the 11th La Traviata staged at the Bolshoi – staged by the artistic director of Washington State Opera [Francesca Zambello](#) took place on October 7, 2012.

Set Designer – Peter John Davison,

Costume Designer – Tanya McCallin,

Lighting Designer – Mark McCullough. [Casts](#)



Violettas of December performances - Dinara Alieva,

Olga Seliverstova (debuted of December 10.)

Oksana Shilova; maestro Tugan Sokhiev

with Liparit Avetisyan (Alfredo) and performers of La Traviata main roles at curtain calls of December 12.

Photo /Instagram

December 15, 16 and 17, the Historic Stage – ballet by Marius Petipa to music by Ludwig Minkus [La Bayadere](#) (1877) (choreographic version by Yuri Grigorovich, scenes from productions by Vakhtang Chabukiani, Nikolai Zubkovsky, Konstantin Sergeyev used.)

Yuri Grigorovich created the new choreographic version by for the Historic Stage after its reconstruction and restoration, the premiere was on January 24, 2013.

Designer – Nikolai Sharonov,

Supervisor of scenery and costumes creation – Valery Leventhal.

Music Director – Pavel Sorokin

In the winter series the parts of Nikia, Solor, Gamzatti performed by (respectively):

December 15 – Svetlana Zakharova, Denis Rodkin, Maria Vinogradova;

December 16 – Alyona Kovalyova, Artemy Belyakov, Olga Marchankova;

December 17 – Olga Smirnova, Eleonora Sevenard, Semyon Chudin.

Conductor – Pavel Klinichev (December 15, 17), Pavel Sorokin (December 16)

[Cast details](#)



Maria Vinogradova as Gamzatti
(photo by Dmitry Yusupov;) [La Bayadere](#)
at the Historic Stage – December 15, 16 and 17



Alexei Yermolaev (1910 -1975) as Solor in La Bayadere,
as Classic Dancer in The Bright Spring (Zinaida Vasileva
as Zina); photo from the Bolshoi Museum

The Bolshoi dedicated the performance of [La Bayadere](#) to the 110th anniversary of the birth of [Alexei Yermolaev](#) (1910 -1975) at the Historic Stage on December 17.

Conductor – Pavel Klinichev.

Alexei Yermolaev belonged to that constellation of brilliant ballet dancers of the Petersburg-Leningrad school who were engaged at the Bolshoi in the first half of the past century.

“When Yermolaev was dancing, it was a celebration of the triumph of art not only for the audience but

for his colleagues on stage, too,” ballet expert Tatiana Bazhenova pointed out. “He performed his role differently every time: never altering the choreographic text, Yermolaev put his current condition of his soul into the dance. Now it was youthful admiration of life, people, art, then – violent hatred of something ugly, outdated...”

Having finished his stage career, Alexei Yermolaev found his second vocation in teaching. Outstanding dancers – Vladimir Vasiliev, Maris Liepa, Mikhail Lavrovsky, Yuri Vladimirov, Boris Akimov, Nikolai Simachov, Alexander Godunov – were among his pupils.

December 18, 19 and 20, the Historic Stage – opera [Carmen](#) by Georges Bizet, libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy based on the same-name novel by Prosper Mérimée.

[Alexei Borodin](#) (chief director of Russian Academic Youth Theatre, Golden Mask 2021 winner – For Outstanding Contribution to Development of Theatre Art) and his permanent co-author, the set designer Stanislav Benediktov worked on the 9th production of the opera at the Bolshoi.

Costume Designer – Valentina Komolova.

Lighting Designer – Damir Ismagilov

Dances: Ricardo Castro, Rosario Castro (Spain)

Music Director – [Tugan Sokhiev](#)

[Casts](#)



Yuri Grigorovich receiving congratulations
after The Nutcracker at the Bolshoi stage.
Photo from Artem Ovcharenko FB-page

On Sunday, December 20, screenings of the ballet [The Nutcracker](#) by Tchaikovsky (choreographic version by Yuri Grigorovich; recording of 23 December 2018) took place in hundreds of cinemas in Russia and around the world.

Main roles by: Margarita Shrayner (Marie) and Semyon Chudin (Prince). Denis Savin appeared as Drosselmeyer, godfather to Marie.

[Cast details](#)

Libretto by Yuri Grigorovich after the namesake fairy-tale by Ernst Theodor Amadeus Hoffmann, ideas from the scenario by Marius Petipa used.

Set Designer: Simon Virsaladze.

The premiere took place on March 12, 1966.

[Video of the screening of The Nutcracker on December 20](#)

[Full list of cities and cinemas around the world](#)

[The Nutcracker marathon](#) will finish the Bolshoi's festival timed to coincide with the 180th anniversary of the birth of Pyotr Tchaikovsky. During Christmas and New Year holidays the Bolshoi will perform The Nutcracker 20 times (December 22-31, 2020, and January 2-6, 2021).

Cast details available at the [theatre website](#).

Vecherniya Moskva newspaper mentions that December 18 was the 128th anniversary of the first performance of The Nutcracker. The premiere took place in 1892 at the Mariinsky Theatre. Italian Riccardo Drigo conducted the music.



The premiere of The Nutcracker on December 18, 1892 at Mariinsky Theatre in St Petersburg

December 11 and 12, the New Stage – one-act ballet evening [Carmen Suite](#) by Alberto Alonso (to music by Georges Bizet and Rodion Shchedrin) and Symphony in C by George Balanchine to music by Georges Bizet.

The ballet Carmen Suite was staged at the Bolshoi for the first time on April 20, 1967, and revived on November 18, 2005.

Production Choreographer – Alberto Alonso

Designer – Boris Messerer

[Ole Maya!](#) – see more about the ballet.

Conductor – Pavel Klinichev. [Casts](#)

The capital revival of [Symphony in C](#) as prepared in cooperation with the George Balanchine Foundation and conforms to the Balanchine Standards of Style and Technique set and provided by the Foundation.

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

Costume Designer – [Tatiana Noginova](#)

Lighting Designer – [Sergey Shevchenko](#).



Part Three. Daria Khokhlova, Vyacheslav Lopatin.
Photo by Damir Yusupov

Conductor – Alexander Soloviev (December 11,) Timur Zangiev (December 12)

[Casts](#)

You can find the interview with directors of George Balanchine Foundation – Elen Sorren and Barbara Horgan (who was the choreographer's personal assistant for many years) via the [link](#) (recording of 2014 at the Bolshoi's Green Salon.)

December 8, 9 and 10, the New Stage – the ballet by Ilya Demutsky [A Hero of Our Time](#). Production Choreographer – Yuri Possokhov. Production Director, Set Designer and Author of the libretto – Kirill Serebrennikov.

Conductor – Anton Grishanin (all days) [Casts](#)



Denis Rodkin as Pechorin, Yulia Stepanova as Bela and Marat Gali (vocal solo) after the performance of December 10. Photo by Marat Gali on [FB](#)

December 18, 19 and 20, the New Stage – ballet [The Bright Stream](#). Libretto by Adrian Piotrovsky and Fyodor Lopukhov. The premiere was on April 18, 2003. Choreographer – [Alexei Ratmansky](#). Set Designer – [Boris Messerer](#). Music Director – Pavel Sorokin (conducting on December 18, 19 (evening) and 20.)

[Casts](#)



[The Bright Stream](#) (photo by Dmitry Yusupov) at the New Stage on December 18 -20

December 23-26 – opera by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte after the play by Pierre de Beaumarchais. The premiere took place on April 25, 2015.

Music Director – William Lacey
 Production Director – Evgeni Pisarev
 Set Designer – Zinovy Margolin
 Costume designer – Viktoria Sevryukova
 Lighting designer – Damir Ismagilov
 Choreographer – Alberts Alberts
 Chief Chorus Master – Valery Borisov
 Conductor – Christopher Moulds

[Casts](#)



A scene from the opera *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Photo by Damir Yusupov

December 29, 30, 31, the New Stage – *The Story of Kai and Gerda* by Sergei Banevich. Libretto by Tatiana Kalinia. The premiere took place on November 28, 2014.

Music Director – Anton Grishanin
 Production Director – Dmitry Belyanushkin
 Set Designer – Valery Leventhal
 Lighting designer – Damir Ismagilov
 Choreographer – Natalia Fiksel [Casts](#)



Christian Spuck rehearses the ballet *Orlando* with the Bolshoi dancers. Photo by Ivan Semenyaka

The Bolshoi rehearses the ballet [Orlando](#). The world premiere is scheduled for March 14, 2021 at the Bolshoi

New Stage. Music by Antonín Dvořák and Max Richter, staging by the prominent German choreographer, the head of the Zurich Ballet Christian Spuck.

Libretto by Claus Spahn.

Set Designer – Rufus Didwizsus

Costume Designer – Emma Ryott

Lighting Designer – Martin Gebhardt.

The Bolshoi Ballet School in Brazil managed to graduate 11 boys and 11 girls in 2020.

Official graduation ceremonies took place on December 11 and 12. This time the performances were streamed on-line on YouTube.

[Links; the 2nd day](#)



The Bolshoi Ballet School in Brazil graduation ceremony for the first time on [YouTube](#)

[The Bolshoi Ballet School in Brazil](#), the first and only one outside Russia, started its work on March 15, 2000 in Joinville, Santa Catharina. The school' method and system of training corresponds that of the Russian choreographic school.

For 20 years the School in Joinville has replenished the ranks of renowned ballet companies all over the world. Some of its best graduates have been dancing at the Bolshoi for several seasons already – [Erick Swolkin](#) (graduated in 2008, tutors – Alexander Pshenitzyn, Denis Nevidomy,) pupils of [Galina Kravchenko](#) the Bolshoi Ballet dancer [Mariana Gomes](#), (the first of the Brazilian dancers to join the company, rehearses under Svetlana Adyrkhaeva) and [Bruna Cantanhede Gaglianone](#) (graduated in 2009.)

On December 13 members of the Young Artists Opera Program performed at the Moscow International House of Music with the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia (chief conductor and music director – Vladimir Spivakov); conductor – Alexander Soloviev. The programme included arias and duets from operas by Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti, Wagner, Glinka, Rimsky-Korsakov, etc. A video fragment from the concert finale (encore) on Elmira Karakhanova's [Instagram](#).

[A video fragment of the curtain calls Programme](#)



Members of the Young Artists Opera Program and conductor Alexander Soloviev at curtain calls after their performance at Svetlanov Hall of MIHM on December 13. Photo / FB

On December 10, 2019, the Bolshoi YOP celebrated its 10th anniversary with a gala at the Historic Stage. Over the past 10 years the Young Artists Opera Program graduated 55 singers and 14 pianists. The head of the Young Artists Opera Program is Dmitry Vdovin.



Professor of the Solo Academic Singing Department of Russian Music Academy of Gnesin, National Artist of Armeinan SSR, Merited Artist of the RF Ruzanna Lisitsian began her classes with the Bolshoi YOP members; December 15. Photo by Katerina Novikova

Press analysis:

Russian mass media

Russian media widely cover the first opera premiere of the Bolshoi 245 season – *Les pêcheurs de perles* by Bizet staged by Vladislavs Nastavševs.

“The choir and orchestra was radically reduced to fit the Chamber Stage capacity,” notes Maria Babalova of [Vecherniya Moskva](#).

And in these difficult musical conditions conductor Alexey Vereshchagin deserves special compliments - his work is exact, exquisite and searing. Thus, this work becomes an event the capital art schedule definitely needs.” The article quotes the words of production director and set designer Vladislavs Nastavševs (pointing out that this work was the director’s “debut on the territory of musical theatre.”)

Rossia-1 channel broadcasted a report within Vesti programme – [Friendship, Rivalry and Love: The Bolshoi Presents *Les pêcheurs de perles*](#).

A report by [Kultura](#) channel says: “Bizet’s early masterpiece was staged in the country’s main theatre only once, more than a century ago.”



[Novosti Kultura](#)

[The report by Kultura](#) “This is a nude-coloured space. It seems to me that this music is Bizet’s music – romanticism, the middle of the 19th century, France. Exotica

is mixed in, too – the scene is set in ancient Ceylon according to the fashion of that time. I felt this music very kinaesthetic by itself. My task was to make this music envelope the audience in a way that would actually have a physiological impact on them,” Vladislavs Nastavševs said.

“The audience will find pearls together with the searchers,” – [TV Centr](#): “This is Latvian director Vladislavs Nastavševs’ debut in opera. The performance was many times postponed due to coronavirus. Yet this evening the audience will at last hear one of the most exciting works by Bizet.”



The Bolshoi guest soloist Konstantin Suchkov (Zurga) in a piece by [TV Centr](#)

[All Shades of Pearl – Art-Moskovia:](#)

“The main accents in the production are on rhythm and the plastique of the actors’ movements, slowly changing set-ups, colour and light olio shimmering with all shades of pearl. They charm you with the natural beauty of the combinations. /.../ And the action unfolding as if in a time-lapse mesmerises the audience with the meditative tone of the performance.



“Yaroslav Abaimov as Nadir singing an aria dedicated to his beloved Leïla.”

Photo by Pavel Rychkov / [Vecherniya Moskva](#)

A brilliant trio of soloists: Azamat Tsaliti as Zurga touchingly and dramatically sacrificing himself; Yaroslav Abaimov sensually and passionately conveying Nadir's sufferings; and Tamara Kasumova as soft and pliant Leila whose voice is like a crystal-clear brook."

"The new Chamber Stage production not only allures you with doubtlessly excellent musical performance, beautiful romantic feelings and aesthetics of visual imagery. It also leaves a wonderful after-taste of acquaintance with the world of the pure and the fair which can be so close to our troublesome life – perhaps it is what modern the audience really needs..."

"The Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow will work during the New Year holidays, the theatre general director Vladimir Urin announced. According to him, all scheduled performances shall be on time," Vesti. Russia reports. December 15 – the Bolshoi general director answered the questions of the presenter in a live programme on [Rossia 24 TV channel](#).

"The Bolshoi will work. Unfortunately, we work only to 25% capacity like all other theatres. For your understanding, the Bolshoi Historic Stage has more than 1500 seats – and there are only 354 persons in the stalls. These are today's requirements of Rospotrebnadzor..."

Nevertheless, all scheduled performances shall take place, the director assured. According to him, the company hopes the performances will not be cancelled.

Speaking of vaccination, Urin noted that many artists and staff members are ready to get vaccinated against the coronavirus.

Answering the question about ticket demand, Urin said that there is no problem.

"Today, we just put tickets on sale – and they disappear in 1.5-2 hour actually," he said."



On the interview with [TASS](#)

[Interfax-Russia](#)

[TASS](#): "Urin said that federal culture institutions got compensation for lost earnings: According to the Bolshoi general director, the government solved the problem quickly."

[Interfax](#)

[Orfei](#)

[Rossiiskaya Gazeta](#)

[AiF](#)

[Kultura newspaper](#)

[Novye Izvestia](#)

[TASS](#):

"The Bolshoi general director Vladimir Urin addressed the company and staff asking them to get vaccinated against the coronavirus infection."

On December 18 the film Tchaikovsky. Genio Loci premiered on [Rossia-Kultura TV channel](#) – within the project Ticket to Bolshoi dedicated to the celebration of the 180th anniversary of the birth of the composer.

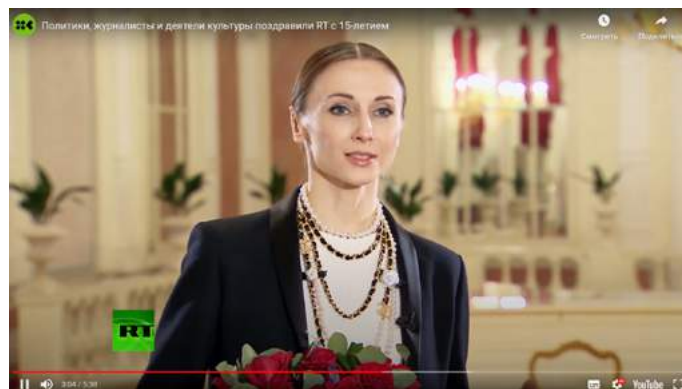
The film speaks about the role the Bolshoi played in the life of Pyotr Tchaikovsky and how the theatre celebrated its favourite composer.

A premium version of the film will be available at the [Bolshoi YouTube channel](#).



Rossia-Kultura channel showed the film Tchaikovsky. Genio Loci.

Summing up the cultural results of 2020, [Moskovsky Komsomolets](#) writes about the premiere of the one-act ballet evening Four Characters In Search Of A Plot at the Bolshoi (September 10-13, 2020) as of "the year's exception. "THE YEAR'S EXCEPTION – the world only (!!) ballet premiere presented live by the Bolshoi Theatre during the quarantine."



Svetlana Zakharova congratulates [RT TV channel](#) and its staff on their 15th anniversary

The Bolshoi Ballet prima Svetlana Zakharova congratulated [RT TV channel](#) and its staff on their 15th anniversary on December 10.

The Bolshoi Opera soloist, National Artist of Azerbaijan Elchin Azizov gave an interview to [Vecherniyaia Moskva](#) newspaper about what national traditions he tries to follow, what Azerbaijan and Russian cultures have in common, and what are his favourite places in Moscow.

“How long did it take you to get used to Moscow and what do you like best it now?”

“As a USSR-born person I never considered Moscow an alien city. I started coming in the late 80s, so the habit developed gradually... Of course, I found my favourite places here over the years. I'd even say, sacred addresses to me. First, it is 25 Ostozhenka – Galina Vishnevskaya Opera Singing Centre where I studied. I can speak about Galina Vishnevskaya endlessly. It is definitely not a topic for a single article. I have unforgettable stories related to her I can share. And I am deliriously happy to be honoured to have met and communicate with this outstanding person.

Second, another address very important to me. 1 Theatre Square – the Bolshoi Theatre that I work at. You cannot imagine how much awe I felt approaching the Bolshoi after the quarantine, I was ready to literally kiss its walls.”



Photo from Elchin Azizov personal archive

Sati. Entertaining Classics with Ekaterina Semenchuk – was aired on [Rossia-K TV channel](#) on December 7 (repeated on December 8.)

“Today’s guest of Sati Spivakova – a real opera star. “She conquered the world’s best opera venues yet she always returns to her beloved home at the Mariinsky Theatre.” [The programme on YouTube](#)

Evgenia Obraztsova – the guest of the [Bolshoi Ballet! Project on Kultura channel](#). The ballerina will perform a



Sati. Entertaining Classics... with Ekaterina Semenchuk / [YouTube](#)

special choreography together with the programme presenter, opera singer Ildar Abdrazakov. The Bolshoi Ballet finale took place on December 19. The winners are announced in the categories of the Best Ballerina, the Best Male Dancer and the Best Couple.

Press analysis:

international mass media

Latvian online news publication [Diena.lv](#) publishes a report about the Bolshoi premiere of *Les pêcheurs de perles*, staged by Vladislavs Nastavševs, on December 10-13. The publication includes quotes of the production director at the dress rehearsal of the performance.

The specialised dance publication [Dance Magazine](#) (USA) publishes an article by Oksana Khadarina who interviews Bolshoi prima Svetlana Zakharova about her work as a host of the TV show *Grand Ballet* and about her other activities. Zakharova says about the pandemic “It was especially difficult in the first month due to uncertainty. We did not know when we would be able to return to the studio and perform on the stage. But at the end of July, the Bolshoi Ballet was back to rehearsals, preparing for the season. Our artistic director, Makhar Vaziev, invited four young dancemakers from Europe to create new contemporary choreography.”

Local newspapers and online publications announce the upcoming screening of Bolshoi’s *Nutcracker* in local cinemas – where restrictions allow it.

In the US cinemas:

[Cleveland Scene](#) (Ohio, USA)

[Greenwich Time](#) (Connecticut, USA)

[The Island Packet](#) (South Carolina, USA)



The Bolshoi Ballet principal Semyon Chudin as Prince-Nutcracker – a shot from the screening of *The Nutcracker* by the Bolshoi.

[Sheridan Media](#) (USA)

[Newspaper New Haven Register](#) (USA)

[CA Noticias](#) (Portugal): “The Nutcracker – Bolshoi, full of magic and fantasy – on December 22 in cinemas of Portu and Lisbon.”



The Bolshoi Ballet’s *Nutcracker*, a livestream recording from Moscow / [Avont Theatre](#)

[Musik in Dresden](#) (Germany) publishes an article by Boris Gruhl about the history of the ballet and the music of Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker*. Writing about recordings of *Nutcracker* he mentions “Not to forget the Moscow Bolshoi production by Yuri Grigorovich from 1966, which is available in a grandiose recording from 2010 at BelAir classiques. As to be expected at the Bolshoi Ballet, the best of the highest quality ballet.”

The UK based online arts and culture journal [Calvert Journal](#) publishes an article by Paula Erizanu “The English National Ballet’s latest production, choreographed by the Bolshoi Theatre’s former principal dancer, Yuri

Possokhov, is now available to stream online. *Senseless Kindness* is a 15-minute performance loosely-inspired by Vasily Grossman’s novel *Life and Fate*, which tells the story of a Russian family caught in the Second World War, and is set to Dmitri Shostakovich’s Piano Trio No1 – an atypical, romantic composition in his oeuvre, which the composer wrote at the tender age of 16.”

[The Times](#) (UK) newspaper publishes a review by dance critic Debra Craine of the English National Ballet production giving the programme four stars out of five. “the company offers us the chance to stream five short dance films (about 15 minutes each) filmed in its new building in east London. The programme includes: “Yuri Possokhov’s *Senseless Kindness* (the music is Shostakovich) is a quartet for two couples that suffers from its filmic imperative. There are too many splices, close-ups and blurred black-and-white images to make sense of his full-bodied portraits of melancholic romance. Still, there is no denying the emotional heft of his work, embodied by four fine dancers, including the lead couple of Isaac Hernández and Alison McWhinney.”

[Dance Australia](#) publishes an article by Karen Van Ulzen announcing the new 2021 season at the Australian Ballet with its new director David Hallberg who says: “I can’t tell you how nice it is to come into an organisation that has positivity is embedded in it. It is a trait I admire in Australia itself. I lived in Moscow for years; there isn’t much positivity roaming around Moscow or the Bolshoi Theatre for that matter. I mean [the Bolshoi] is a fabulous, world-class company to which I am very grateful for the experience, but the AB has this can-do belief in doing the best they possibly can do.” The new season will include “The programme for the second half of the year includes a new production of *Anna Karenina*, a co-production with the Joffrey Ballet in the US choreographed by Yuri Possokhov.” “Rounding out the year is *Harlequinade*, which will finally make the stage after its postponement last year. This ballet, choreographed by Petipa in 1900, disappeared from the stage after the Russian Revolution, but has been “reconstructed and revitalised” by Alexei Ratmansky, the Russian choreographer who has made something of a speciality of digging out and reviving lost Russian gems.”

The online specialised entertainment news publication [Broadway World](#) announces the Australian Ballet’s new season programme under director David Hallberg “Originally scheduled to premiere in the company’s 2020 season, the newly commissioned *Anna Karenina* by Yuri Possokhov will instead grace the 2021 season, followed by John Cranko’s *Romeo and Juliet*, the highly acclaimed full-length retelling of Shakespeare’s tragic love story. Alexei Ratmansky’s *Harlequinade*, featuring

comedic hijinks and madcap characters, will complete the 2021 season.”

The website of the European broadcaster [Euronews](#) publishes a tourist article about the attractions of visiting Moscow. The article includes a photo of the Bolshoi Theatre and “The Bolshoi, for example, is not just for ballet anymore! You can nibble on caviar and blinis at a luxe restaurant right behind the famous theatre.”

Briefly

Orchestre national du Capitole de Toulouse and Tugan Sokhiev will give concerts on December 18 and 31.

[Culture 31](#): Due to the pandemic “the broadcasting of concerts exclusively live and streaming on social networks.”

The website publishes a report and a video interview with Tugan Sokhiev. “The Orchestre national du Capitole has concerts broadcast live and recorded on Facebook and Youtube “the homage to cinema of Tugan Sokhiev is now an annual event of the season. And the concert on December 31 is an opportunity to once again vibrate to the magic of the orchestra and its larger pages!

[Link](#) to the article and the video interview with Tugan Sokhiev



Tugan Sokhiev's video interview on the French online publication [Culture 31](#)

[France Musique](#) “Livestream of the concert on December 18 will be on the [ONCT Facebook](#) – and will stay available up to January 31.”

The French online regional culture and events news publication [Via Occitanie](#) (France) announces “When the magic of the cinema meets that of the orchestra.. Tugan Sokhiev and the Orchestre national du Capitole take over original soundtracks to allow young and old alike to discover the orchestra in a new facet” “A new

live concert of around fifteen works available free of charge, Saturday December 18 at 8 p.m.”

Screenings available at

[ONCT YouTube channel](#)

[FR3 Occitanie TV channel](#)

[Mairie de Toulouse](#)

From July 17 to August 31 2020 Salzburg Festival plans to show more than 160 events including eight opera productions, 80 concerts and several dramas. //

Among the festival participants there will be the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Mozarteum Orchestra, Camerata Salzburg, Chicago Symphonic Orchestra, Collegium vocale Gent. At the pulpit there will be Riccardo Muti, Philippe Herreweghe, Daniel Barenboim, Kirill Petrenko and Maxim Yemelianychev.

Besides concerts and performances the Salzburg Festival schedule includes lectures, discussions, exhibitions, round-table meetings, screenings, the awarding of Herbert von Karajan Prize to young conductors and also the Gerard Mortier Prize as well as celebrating two conductors marking their anniversaries at Salzburg – Riccardo Muti and Friedrich Cerha.

[Colta.ru](#) and other sources.

[The complete programme of Salzburg Festival 2021](#)

[Kultura channel](#) reported the opening of the 19th International Festival Dance Open. The Ural Ballet dancers presented a premiere programme URAL INTRO within the programme of the festival held in St Petersburg from December 10 to 16. On December 12 the Perm Ballet performed the ballet Anyuta to music by Valery Gavrilin at Baltiysky Dom Theatre.

[See more on TASS website](#)

The head of the Dance Open creative brand Ekaterina Galanova gave an interview to [Fontanka](#).

The festival ended on December 16 at Oktyabrsky Concert Hall with a big international gala – the first one in the pandemic era. Tatiana Kuznetsova of [Kommersant](#).

“The finale gala of the international festival Dance Open looked improbable in the lockdown era: it happened to be truly international. The Spanish National Ballet, Polish National Ballet broke through to make it to St Petersburg, primas and principals of Dutch National Ballet as well as star freelancers Lucia Lacarra and Matthew Golding. The repertoire range embraced 180 years of ballet history: from Bournonville to nowadays premieres.”

About the ballet Pioneer's Word – a suite staged by Mariinsky Ballet first soloist Alexander Sergeev to music by Dmitry Shostakovich: “The clear compositional logic, bravura tone, naive humour, technical deftness of Moscovites Anastasia Stashkevich, Vyacheslav Lopatin and Mikhail Lobukin, and Peterburger Elena Evseeva, dressed in white shirts and red scarves, charged the

production with fresh and easy optimism hardly expected in our dark times.”



The ballet festival Dance Open finale with an international gala at Oktyabrsky Grand Concert Hall in St Petersburg

[Vesti - Sankt-Peterburg](#)
[Kultura channel](#)
[NTV](#)
[St Petersburg TV Channel](#)
[LenTV24](#)

The first edition of the Vaganova Academy project Dialogues About School was dedicated to Soviet ballerina and tutor, Leningrad Kirov Ballet soloist (1948-1971), Merited Artist of the RSFSR Galina Kekisheva and is available on the [Academy YouTube channel](#).



Leningrad Ballet School. – tutor and ballet-mistress Agrippina Vaganova with her pupils (left to right from Vaganova - Feya Balabina, Alla Shelest, Nina Zheleznova, Olga Moiseeva, Ninel Petrova, Nonna Yastrebova, Natalia Dudinskaya, Inna Zubkovskaya, Galina Kirillova, Tatiana Vecheslova. Photo by Sergei Smirnov (Smena newspaper, 1946) / [FB of Pavel Markin](#)

Metropolitan Opera cuts backstage crew work, classic music radio [Orpheus](#) reports referring to [Operawire](#):

“The administrations failed to agree with trade unions. Money is short, the theatre needs an economical reboot, says Met general manager Peter Gelb. He says that “salary and benefits for trade union members make 2/3 of annual expenses’. They plan to reduce 30% of salaries and hope to restore payments only when the pre-covid level of box sales revenue and donations is achieved. Experts believe that New York economy will not return to previous conditions before 2025.

Republication on [ClassicalMusicNews.Ru](#)

[Exhibition Cecil Beaton and Stars Cult](#) stays open to March 14, 2021, at the Hermitage, General Headquarters.



Choreographer George Balanchine (For Vogue US, 1935) photo etudes with Anna Pavlova’s mask and for the portrait of Rudolf Nureyev, self-portrait in winter Russia 1935, photo portraits of Marilyn Monroe and Evelyn Waugh – [Cecil Beaton and Stars Cult](#)

Cecil Beaton (1904-1980) is one of the most famous photographers of the 20th century. He shot fashion and celebrities, he was a set designer, costume designer, essayist. After World War II Beaton became the official photographer of British Royal Court. In 1964 he was awarded with an Oscar for his work on the film My Fair Lady.

The exhibition unites more than 100 works. Special attention was paid to Cecil Beaton’s connections with

Russian culture – one of the exposition sections is dedicated to his works for the Ballet Russes.

The exhibition opening ceremony and video excursion on [YouTube](#). Covered by:

[TASS](#)

[Vogue](#)

[Tatler](#)

[St Petersburg TV Channel](#) and other media.

Debuts

La Traviata

December 9. Bolshoi guest soloist Matteo Lippi debuted at the Bolshoi as Alfredo (also December 11 and 13.) Chamber Stage soloist Anna Bauman as Annina (also December 11 and 13.)

December 10. Olga Selivyorstova debuted as Violetta.

A Hero of Our Time

December 9. Part ONE Bela. Antonina Chapkina as Bela

December 10. Part TWO Taman. Alyona Kovalyova as Undine

Carmen Suite

December 12 (12:00). Kristina Kretova debuted in the main role.

La Bayadere

December 15. Ekaterina Klyavlina, Elizaveta Kokoreva – Grand Pas

December 16. Elizaveta Kokoreva as Gumpe, the first variation in The Shadows

Carmen

December 19. Alina Chertash as Mercedes

Cast alterations

La Traviata

December 10 and 12. Liparit Avetisyan replaced Ilya Selivanov as Alfredo

Carmen Suite

December 11. Anna Nikulina replaced Ekaterina Krysanova in the main role

Symphony in C

December 11. Daria Khokhlova replaced Ekaterina Krysanova (the Leading Couple in Part One)



Kristina Kretova debuted as Carmen on December 12 (12:00)

La Bayadere

December 16. Artemy Belyakov replaced Egor Gerashchenko as Solor

Carmen

Carmen – Agunda Kulaeva (December 18 and 20,) Oksana Volkova (December 19;) Micaela – Anna Nechaeva (December 18,) Dinara Alieva (December 19,) Anna Aglatova (December 20;) Escamillo – Alexander Kasyanov (December 19,) Elchin Azizov (December 20.)

The Bright Stream

Margarita Shrayner replaced Ekaterina Krysanova (December 18) and Ekaterina Shipulina (December 19, 19:00) as Ballerina

Birthdays

December 8 – composer, pianist, National Artist of the RSFSR Mieczysław Weinberg (1919-1996)

December 8 – composer Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) – 155th anniversary of his birth

December 10 – artistic director and chief conductor of Academic Symphony Orchestra of St Petersburg State Philharmonic, National Artist of the USSR Yuri Temirkanov



Yuri Temirkanov speaks about the opera by [Pyotr Tchaikovsky Eugene Onegin](#)

December 11 – writer, Nobel Prize winner (1970) Alexander Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008)

December 13 – trumpet player, Bolshoi orchestra soloist since 1945, tutor and conductor, National Artist of Russia Timofei Dokshitser (1921-2005)

December 13 – opera singer (mezzo soprano) Vasilisa Berzhanskaya. 2015-2017 – a member of the Bolshoi Young Artists Opera Program



Vasilisa Berzhanskaya

December 14 – baritone, Bolshoi Opera guest soloist Vasily Ladyuk

December 14 – Bolshoi Ballet soloist, working under contract, Merited Artist of Russia Andrei Sitnikov.

December 15 – ballet tutor, one of the leading character dancers of his generation, National Artist of Russia, Nikolai Simachev (1927-1996)

December 15 – Bolshoi Ballet first soloist Alexander Vodopetov.

December 16 – composer, pianist, National Artist of the USSR Rodion Shchedrin.



Rodion Shchedrin and Maya Plisetskaya

November 17 – Bolshoi Opera soloist, National Artist of Azerbaijan Dinaea Alieva

Talk-show Steps to Success – the Talent and Toil episode with participation of the singer – at the [Bolshoi YouTube channel](#)



La Traviata Dinara Alieva in the main role.
Photo by Damir Yusupov

December 17 – Bolshoi Ballet soloist Nelli Kobakhidze.

December 17 – Mikhailovsky Ballet dancer, Bolshoi Ballet dancer (2009-2013) Angelina Vorontsova

December 21 – Bolshoi ballet master, Bolshoi ballet dancer 1988-2011, National Artist of Russia, Nadezhda Gracheva

December 23 – opera bass, mentor, National Artist of the USSR Alexander Vedernikov (1927–2018), Bolshoi opera soloist 1958-1990

December 25 – Golden Mask triple winner, theatre designer Semyon Pastukh. He designed the ballet The Hussars' Ballad by Khrennikov (production choreographer Bryantsev) at the Bolshoi in 1980, the ballet The Bolt by Shostakovich (production choreographer Alexei Ratmansky) in 2005, the opera The Idiot by Weinberg (production choreographer Arie)

December 27 – Olga Kishnyova, Bolshoi Ballet soloist.

December 27 – ballerina, mentor, Merited Artist of RSFSR, danced at the Bolshoi 1936-1959 Lyudmila Tcherkasova (1917–1992)



Nadezhda Gracheva as Nikia, La Bayadere

December 28 – Merited Artist of RSFSR, one of the leading male dance mentors who combined the Moscow and St Petersburg ballet school traditions Pyotr Pestov (1929–2011).



Dear readers!
We wish you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!