

Let's Sing Opera will present Orfeo in the Moravian-Silesian region

In Ostrava, June 7, 2024 – The planned performances of Claudio Monteverdi's early baroque opera L'ORFEO with a libretto by Alessandro Striggio in the Czech Republic will take place in June at four remarkable locations in the Moravian-Silesian region. Probably the first surviving opera in its entirety, it is based on the Greek legend of Orpheus and his descent into Hades and his unsuccessful attempt to bring his dead bride, Eurydice, back to the world of the living.

The fateful theme, accompanied by a chamber orchestra, will be performed by the Let's Sing Opera Competition winners as soloists. Choral parts of the Nymphs and the Shepherds are sung by children from the Opera Studio of the Moravian-Silesian National Theatre, together with pupils from Leoš Janáček's elementary schools in Hukvaldy and Opava on Vrchní Street. Oliver Dohnányi is the conductor, and Ilja Racek Jr. the director of the performance. In this role, he will replace the recently deceased opera director Luďek Golat, who was the face of the project and also, as the head of the NDM opera thirty years ago, was at the birth of the Opera Studio and the International Music Festival of Janáčkovy Hukvaldy.

The first of four performances of the opera Orpheus will be hosted on **Thursday, June 20**, by Leoš Janáček Hukvaldy Elementary School and Kindergarten. The school is equipped with a **social hall** unique to an elementary school. The hall was built to support an essential cultural event in Northern Moravia, the Leoš Janáček International Music Festival, and is used for school and community events. The morning performance here is mainly dedicated to the pupils and schools participating in its preparation.

On **Friday**, the audience can look forward to a performance of a Greek fable in the awe-inspiring backdrop of the partially roofed amphitheatre of **Hukvaldy Castle**, the third largest castle ruin in the Czech Republic. The 2.5 km walk between the meadows from the gate of the Hukvaldy deer park to the walls is richly rewarded by the fantastic view of the Beskydy Mountains from the castle motte's walkway and the unique acoustics up and around the enclosed stone space under the open sky.

Saturday's reprise belongs to **Divadlo "12"**, a chamber theatre space of the Moravian-Silesian National Theatre, a place for the activities of all NDM ensembles and other experimental theatre projects on the border of genres. The stage is located in the grounds of the Jiří Myron Theater buildings on Čs. legií street 12 and in a hall for 60 spectators, it offers a very intimate atmosphere and intense contact between actors, singers and the audience.

The final performance of Orfeo and his small tour of the Moravian-Silesian region will take place on **Sunday, June 23**, in the **Poruba Castle** courtyard, the second oldest building in Ostrava and the oldest structure in the Poruba area. A small castle with a simple baroque appearance located on the northern slope of the Porubka River is protected as a cultural monument of the Czech Republic. Although it was threatened with complete demolition in 1989, it is now flourishing in private hands.

Let's Sing Opera is an international project organized by the Czech company Eurofilmfest, which is also behind, for example, the film festival Days of European Film. The project takes place in the Czech Republic, Italy and Greece. The foreign partners of the project are Ensemble San Felice (ESF) and Associazione Musicale Bel Canto (Bel Canto) from Italy, as well as Etairia Lyrikou Theatro Ellados Monoprosopi Idiotiki Kefalaouchiki Etairia (Hellenic Opera) from Greece and Lavra Opera Llc (Lavra Opera) from Ukraine. The project is created with the support of the Creative Europe program, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and the Moravian-Silesian Region.

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Claudio Monteverdi – L'Orfeo

Režie **Luděk Golat, Ilja Racek**

Dirigent **Oliver Dohnányi**

21.6. 2024 od 18 hodin **Hrad Hukvaldy**

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Claudio Monteverdi – L'Orfeo

Režie Luděk Golat, Ilja Racek

Dirigent Oliver Dohnányi

22.6. 2024 od 18 hodin Divadlo „12“

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Dirigent Oliver Dohnányi

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