

PER BOYE HANSEN

Artistic Director of the National Theatre Opera and the State Opera

opera

Musica non grata Concluding Weekend (5 to 7 April 2024)

Between 5 and 7 April 2024, the *Musica non grata Concluding Weekend* will mark the culmination of a four-year project by the National Theatre Opera and the State Opera, dedicated to the musical legacy of composers persecuted by the Nazi regime, with a relation to the musical environment of the First Czechoslovak Republic. Over four years, the *Musica non grata* series has offered more than 150 opera and operetta performances, concerts, and educational programmes. The project is realised with financial support from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in the Czech Republic.

“*Musica non grata* revisits the grand periods of our turbulent shared history in Central Europe, while also reminding us of the dark chapters of our past. The rediscovery, presentation, and interpretation of works by artists who fell victim to fanatic nationalism and racial hatred hold exceptional significance for Czech-German cultural history. I am deeply grateful for the excellent cooperation with the National Theatre Opera and the State Opera. Central Europe has a positive spirit too, and this project is a fine testament to that,” says **Andreas Künne**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Czech Republic. “For me, as the Artistic Director of the National Theatre Opera and the State Opera, this project signifies the return of the first Czech opera scene to the cultural map of Europe. I believe we have achieved this admirably. I also trust that the *Musica non grata* project has enriched everyone involved at the National Theatre, whether artists or management colleagues, with valuable experiences, contacts, inspirations, and new friendships,” adds **Per Boye Hansen**, Artistic Director of the National Theatre Opera and the State Opera.

The *Musica non grata* project will bid farewell to its audience **at the State Opera from 5 to 7 April** with the final performances of Paul Abraham’s operetta *Ball in Savoy* (5 April), and Alexander Zemlinsky’s comic opera *Kleider machen Leute* (7 April). On Saturday, 6 April, a single performance of the one-act operas *Sancta Susanna* by Paul Hindemith, returning to the State Opera stage after 101 years, and *Eine florentinische Tragödie* by Alexander Zemlinsky is scheduled. The leading roles will be performed by **Tamara Morozová, Lucie Hilscherová, Joachim Goltz, Corinna Scheurle, and Josef Moravec.**

The concert performance will be conducted by **Karsten Januschke**. "If by presenting the music of these composers we can contribute even a drop towards realizing the dangerous situation we find ourselves in today and the worst nightmare humanity went through eighty years ago, I will be glad. [...] But *Eine florentinische Tragödie* and *Sancta Susanna*, above all, embody fascinating music that should be featured on the repertoire much more frequently. Let's not always think of it in connection with Nazism and the Third Reich, because that's exactly what that regime would have wanted. Let's simply enjoy it!" says Karsten Januschke. The concert will include a dramaturgical introduction by one of the foremost experts on the work of Alexander Zemlinsky, the conductor and musicologist **Antony Beaumont**.

As part of the *Musica non grata Concluding Weekend*, the world premiere of the puppet fairy tale *The Bald Princess*, with music by Terežín composer **Lena Stein-Schneider**, prepared by the young creative team of **Matyáš Míka**, **Markéta Labusová**, and **Iva Ščerbáková**, will take place. The performance co-produced by the National Theatre, Musica non grata, and the association Puppets in Hospital, is scheduled for Saturday, 6 April, at the Ronald McDonald House in Prague and is exclusively intended for child patients of the oncology department of the Motol University Hospital.

Please find all information and tickets for the Musica non grata Concluding Weekend at musicanongrata.cz/weekend.

Project detail: <https://1url.cz/Tu6pr>

Visuals: <https://1drv.ms/f/s!ApBE3x3pPyNihvcDFx5lzT23BsFn0Q?e=1k6eUG>

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