



NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIAIAN THEATRE

**OPERA**

Ostrava, Czech Republic

**BEDŘICH SMETANA**

2 March 1824–12 May 1884



## **EXPLORE OSTRAVA OPERA**

We are the only opera house in the world  
that stages performances of all 8 completed  
operas by Bedřich Smetana

**First run from 2 to 10 March 2024**  
**Second run from 4 to 12 May 2024**

**TICKETS  
ON SALE**

# SMETANA OPERA CYCLE OSTRAVA 2024

The year 2024 commemorates 200 years since the birth of Czech composer Bedřich Smetana (1824–1884), whilst also marking the 140th anniversary of his death. In cooperation with the Janáček Philharmonic Ostrava, the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre will be the only opera house in the world to commemorate these anniversaries by staging performances of all eight of Bedřich Smetana's finished operas.

Bedřich Smetana is considered to be the founder of modern Czech music, not only for his world-renowned compositions but also for his organisational and conducting activities. As principal conductor of the Prague Provisional Theatre between 1866 and 1874, Smetana gave birth to the first permanent Czech opera ensemble—the Prague National Theatre's opera ensemble! In 1874, however, Smetana had to give up this work due to health issues, but he never stopped composing. During this period, he completed not only three operas but also major chamber works such as two string quartets or the violin duets *From the Homeland* and, above all, the cycle of symphonic poems called *My Fatherland*.

Opera works are the cornerstone of Bedřich Smetana's remarkable oeuvre. He completed a total of eight operas, each of which is a mature, consistent, and in terms of dramaturgy highly original work presenting a different musical and dramatic universe. There are few world-class composers whose relatively extensive operatic oeuvre can be presented as a collection of equivalent compositions, even though each piece differs in its dramaturgy and genre.

The Ostrava-based opera company first presented all of Smetana's complete operas in the sixth year of its existence in 1924, again in 1956, and for the last time in 1984! At that time, the Prague National Theatre also performed the Smetana cycle; however, no other opera house, here or anywhere else in the world, has attempted it since then. Since 1989, Smetana's operas have largely disappeared from the repertoires of Czech opera houses and have only been performed very sporadically, less frequently than they deserve.

The dramaturges of the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre's opera company have decided on a major change and devised a systematic project to revive Bedřich Smetana's eight complete operas over the course of the decade following 2014. In the 2023/2024 season, all the operas will be phased in until February 2024, and in view of the composer's birth and death anniversaries on 2 March and 12 May, staged as a complete cycle in two terms: 2–10 March and 4–12 May 2024.

The Smetana Opera Cycle Ostrava 2024 aims to create productions offering a contemporary theatrical perspective on Smetana's operas—a perspective abounding with imagination, contextual awareness, full respect for his the works, their rich

inner world, and music. At the same time, considering the cycle as an interpretative challenge, a new generation of Czech and foreign performers of the Smetana repertoire will be given the opportunity to grow.

One of the most important ambitions, however, is bringing Smetana's complete operatic oeuvre closer to contemporary Czech and foreign audiences to offset the exclusion of Smetana from the repertoire of Czech opera houses over the last three decades. Undoubtedly, the Smetana Opera Cycle Ostrava 2024 offers an exceptional opportunity to experience all the operas by Smetana in an intensive period of time.



**Jiří Nekvasil**

Intendant of the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre

## **THE BRANDENBURGERS IN BOHEMIA**

**02.03. and 04.05.2024**

## **THE BARTERED BRIDE**

**03.03. and 05.05.2024**

## **DALIBOR**

**04.03. and 06.05.2024**

## **THE TWO WIDOWS**

**06.03. and 07.05.2024**

## **THE KISS**

**07.03. and 09.05.2024**

## **THE SECRET**

**08.03. and 10.05.2024**

## **THE DEVIL'S WALL**

**09.03. and 11.05.2024**

## **LIBUŠE**

**10.03. and 12.05.2024**



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# NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE

The National Moravian-Silesian Theatre (founded in 1919) is the biggest and oldest professional theatre in Ostrava and the Moravian-Silesian Region. It is also the largest cultural institution established by the Statutory City of Ostrava. Four companies of the theatre—opera, drama, ballet, and musical—perform regularly on three permanent stages, which are the Antonín Dvořák Theatre, Jiří Myron Theatre, and the chamber Theatre 12.

The theatre opens about 20 productions and performs almost 500 performances per season. In addition to its regular productions, the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre co-produces the drama festival OST-RA-VAR and biennial opera festivals New Opera Days Ostrava (NODO) and Ostrava Days.

The city of Ostrava, with more than 320,000 inhabitants, is situated in the northeastern part of the Czech Republic, which is a landlocked country in Central Europe and a member state of the European Union. The capital is Prague, the official currency is the koruna (CZK). Ostrava is the third largest city in the Czech Republic and the second largest urban agglomeration after Prague.

## NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE

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