



NÁRODNÍ DIVADLO MORAVSKOSLEZSKÉ NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE

PRESS RELEASE

OPERA

Ostrava, Czech Republic

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BEDŘICH SMETANA'S *DALIBOR* COMPLETES REHEARSALS FOR THE SMETANA OPERA CYCLE OSTRAVA 2024

National Moravian-Silesian Theatre's last opera premiere of the 2022/2023 season is ***DALIBOR*** by Bedřich Smetana and is the last piece to open before the Smetana festival next season. Stage director Martin Otava rehearsed the opera together with Prague National Theatre's Music Director of Opera Robert Jindra. The opening nights take place at the Antonín Dvořák Theatre on 22 and 24 June 2023, reruns are planned as of September 2023.

Following the tradition of the Year of Czech Music, NMST's event ***Smetana Opera Cycle Ostrava 2024*** aims to present all eight completed operas by Bedřich Smetana in two blocks in March and May 2024 to highlight and celebrate Smetana's birth bicentenary and 140th anniversary of death. Ten-year intention to include Smetana in the opera company's repertoire has been accomplished with *Dalibor*. Operas *Rusalka*, *The Kiss*, *The Two Widows*, and *The Bartered Bride* are currently running, while *The Secret*, *The Devil's Wall*, and *The Brandengurgers in Bohemia* wait for their revival in the 2023/2024 season. *Libuše* will be coproduced with Janáček Philharmonic and staged as semi-staged opera at the end of the prepared blocs next year.

Though the seeds for *Dalibor* became planted in Smetana's mind at the same time as they did for *The Bartered Bride*, each piece is completely different. The comic opera was followed by a tragedy that opened a new chapter of heroic motifs in the Czech opera repertoire. The opera reflects the legend of knight Dalibor of Kozojedy, who takes revenge on the burgrave of Ploškovice Castle and captivates his plaintiff Milada, the burgrave's sister.

The opening night of *Dalibor* also connects to a historical moment crucial for Czech culture and society—on Saturday, 16 May 1868, not only the opera, conducted by Bedřich Smetana himself, premiered in the New Town Theatre in Prague but also the Prague National Theater's cornerstone was laid. *Dalibor* was, however, unpopular among both the people and critics, but some of Smetana's colleagues and peers perceived it as inspiring and genius.

Robert Jindra and Martin Otava, admirers of Smetana's operatic oeuvre, share the sentiment that "*Dalibor* is a true musical-dramatic work with a flow of music, avoiding cheap and pandering effects. It encompasses drama, romance, tenderness, and combats. However, Smetana places considerable demands on his performers, which is likely why *Dalibor* is performed less than it deserves. The two central roles – Milada and Dalibor – are truly top-



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notch, requiring not only singing technique but also dynamic flexibility and the creation of character psychology. The orchestra is also crucial, serving as an integral part of the story, co-creating moods, and defining characters."

Dalibor is the fourteenth revival in the NMST's history, and this rendition is a co-production with the J. K. Tyl Theatre in Pilsen.

Show dates

1st premiere: 22.06.2023

2nd premiere: 24.06.2023

Smetana Opera Cycle Ostrava 2024 show dates: 04.03. and 06.05.2024 from 6:30 pm

Venue

Antonín Dvořák Theatre Smetanovo nám. 3104, 701 04 Moravská Ostrava a Přívoz, Czech Republic

Creative team

conductor **Robert Jindra**¹ / **Jiří Habart** / **Josef Kuřfiřt**

stage director **Martin Otava**

set designer **Daniel Dvořák**

costume designer **Hana Haklová**

choreographer **Lukas Zuschlag**

movement director **Jana Tomsová**

chorus master **Jurij Galatenko**

dramaturg **Juraj Bajús**

Cast

Vladislav, Czech king **Martin Bárta**¹ / **Marián Lukáč**²

Dalibor, the knight **Tomáš Juhás**¹ / **Luciano Mastro**² / **Richard Samek**

Budivoj, commander of the royal guard **Martin Gurbal**¹ / **František Zahradníček**^{1 2}

Beneš, jailor **Jozef Benci**¹ / **Peter Mikuláš**²

Vítek, Dalibor's messenger **Martin Javorský**² / **Ondřej Koplík**¹

Milada, sister of Burgrave Ploskovicky **Jolana Fogašová**¹ / **Kateřina Hebelková**²

Jitka, a peasant girl **Veronika Rovná**² / **Anna Wilczyńska**¹

Judge **Erik Ondruš**² / **Waldemar Wiczorek**¹

Ambrož Chrt of Pilsen **Jan Rychtář**^{1 2} / **Erik Ondruš**

¹ cast of the March edition of the Smetana Opera Cycle Ostrava 2024

² cast of the May edition of the Smetana Opera Cycle Ostrava 2024

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NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE

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