



240th Anniversary of the Riga City Theatre

13.09.2022 | Programme

11:00 Conference

“From Vietinghoff’s Theatre to the Wagner House”

19:00 Evening programme

Piano concert “1842. Franz Liszt in Riga” by Andrejs Osokins

Music Theatre performance “Gesang, Gesang und abermals Gesang” directed by Kristina Wuss

Conference “From Vietinghoff’s Theatre to the Wagner House”

11:00–14:00 (with a coffee break at 12:35)

Five presentations will give an insight into the history of the building from its origins to the present day. A live stream of the conference will also be available on the Facebook Page of the Renaissance of the Wagner Theatre in Riga.

Presentations in Latvian will be simultaneously translated into English.

Joachim von Vietinghoff and Julia von Vietinghoff “Legacy of Otto Hermann von Vietinghoff-Scheel and the Vietinghoff family”

The founder and first director of the Riga City Theatre was Otto Hermann von Vietinghoff-Scheel. The Vietinghoff family has a long and rich history, bridging the Latvian and German culture over centuries. Two members of the Vietinghoff family and direct relatives of the theatre’s founder will reveal these links by introducing the personality and legacy of Otto Hermann von Vietinghoff-Scheel, as well as the entire Vietinghoff family, which has a strong cultural presence up to this day.

Presentation language: German (with translation into Latvian)

Dr. art. Ilona Breġe “Richard Wagner and his musical peers at the Riga City Theatre”

Composer and musicologist Ilona Breġe will give an insight into the theatre troupe as a collective and highlight the main opera role singers who, under Wagner's guidance as a conductor, staged and performed operas of various styles.

Presentation language: Latvian (with translation into English)

Dr. arch. Ilmārs Dirveiks “Building history of the Riga City Theatre”

The building at 4 Vāgnera Street in Riga has undergone many alterations, but documentary evidence for not all of them has survived or is scarce and ambiguous, while more information is available on the changes to the building in the 20th century. This presentation will provide a nuanced introduction to the architectural history of the building and less known facts.

Presentation language: Latvian (with translation into English)

Arch. Zaiga Gaile “The architectural heritage of the Wagner Theatre and an insight into the reconstruction project”

The idea for the restoration of the Wagner Theatre was born several years ago, and the architectural vision is an integral part of it. The presentation by Zaiga Gaile will give an insight into the details and future plans of the Wagner Theatre restoration project.

Presentation language: Latvian (with translation into English)

Dr. art. Lolita Fūrmane “Heinrich Dorn: a contemporary of Wagner's Riga period. A recent discovery of his opera”

This presentation is based on a pioneering study of the opera “Das Banner von England” by Wagner's Riga-period colleague Heinrich Dorn. The opera premiered in Riga in the autumn of 1841, and until 2018 there was only factual information about it. The National Library of Latvia has recently acquired the music collection of the Riga City Theatre and has discovered the full manuscript score of this opera. An excerpt from the opera will also be performed during the conference.

Presentation language: Latvian (with translation into English)

Evening Programme

19:00-21:00

Piano concert “1842. Liszt in Riga” by Andrejs Osokins

The concert will feature piano music by Richard Wagner and Franz Liszt, as well as pieces Liszt performed in his Riga concert exactly 180 years ago. The programme also includes Mozart's aria from “The Marriage of Figaro”, performed by Sonora Voice, as well as “Adelaide” by Ludwig van Beethoven, sung by Mihails Čulpajevs.

Music Theatre performance “Gesang, Gesang und abermals Gesang, ...”

And suddenly they are alive again, the rooms... We embark on a journey back in time to the 18th and 19th centuries. We meet Anna Ulrika von Vietinghoff, the wife of the theatre's founder, during her unusual theatre engagement, the Hamburg actress Frederike Federsen, who was the first to speak Latvian on stage, the silent captain who brought an until then unknown young conductor to Riga, the very same conductor Richard Wagner in his everyday life in Riga, Minna Wagner during her artistic swan song, Heinrich Dorn's dry humour at the piano. And last but not least, a couple of the books that Wagner read in Riga flies past us. Opera characters grow out of some books and begin to explore their Latvian surroundings. Meanwhile, Richard and Minna are preparing for a journey. Will they reach their destination, Paris?

In German, Latvian, French with: Andris Kipluks (Richard Wagner), Evija Martinsone (Minna Wagner), Edgars Ošleja (Karl Wilhelm Günther), Dace Volfarte (Anna Ulrika von Vietinghoff), Mārtiņš Zilberts (Heinrich Dorn at the piano), Marija Grauba (Friederike Federsen), Kaspars Zaķis (Captain). Production: Kristina Wuss. The performance is supported by the Latvian National Opera.

The events of the 240th Anniversary of the Riga City Theatre are financially supported by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Baltic States, State Culture Capital Foundation of Latvia and the Goethe-Institut Riga.

News and updates about the events will be posted on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), as well as on the website of the Riga Richard Wagner Society vagneriga.lv

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