



NÁRODNÍ DIVADLO MORAVSKOSLEZSKÉ NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE

PRESS RELEASE

OPERA

Ostrava, Czech Republic

23 January 2024



***THE BRANDENBURGERS IN BOHEMIA* AT THE NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE**

THE BRANDENBURGERS IN BOHEMIA marks the revival of the first opera by Bedřich Smetana at the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre. This historical three-act opera from 1866 is part of the ***Smetana Opera Cycle Ostrava 2024***, encompassing the performance of all completed operas by Smetana in two sequences in March and May of this year.

The opera's plot unfolds a year after the death of King Přemysl Otakar II when Margrave Otto of Brandenburg invaded and devastated Bohemia. A period of hardship followed, during which the Czech nation rose in resistance. The opera weaves together the power of words and revolutionary scenes depicting common people, intertwining with a romantic narrative of love and the fortunate rescue of democratic ideals. Widely known for its mass scenes, liberation themes, and romantic pathos, the opera likely draws inspiration from the popularity of French grand opera in Prague during that era. With this work, Bedřich Smetana intentionally aligned himself with the Czech national revival and the political program of national emancipation.

The opera is revived on the Ostrava stage after 8 years and will open ten-year endeavour to present Smetana's operatic oeuvre. "This idea emerged during our work on *The Devil's Wall* in 2014 when, together with the opera team, we realized that in 2024, 200 years would have passed since the birth of Bedřich Smetana. Additionally, we will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Year of Czech Music, established in 1924 to honour Smetana's legacy," says NMST's Intendant and the production's director Jiří Nekvasil.

The musical direction is undertaken by the former Music Director of Opera Jakub Klecker: "Although *Brandenburgers* is the composer's first opera, in the context of Czech opera literature, this title holds a prominent position. Smetana skips the overture and, after a short dramatic introduction, immediately enters the action. The course of the whole work has a clear form, alternating between pious, lyrical, combative, and choral passages," says Jakub Klecker.

This is the 6th rendition of the opera *The Brandenburgers in Bohemia* in the NMST, whose original opening night took place on 9 and 11 June 2016.



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Show dates

1st revived premiere: 22.02.2024

2nd revived premiere: 24.02.2024

reruns in the season: 02.03., 18.04., 04.05.2024

Smetana Opera Cycle Ostrava 2024 show dates: 02.03. and 04.05.2024 from 6:30 pm

Venue

Antonín Dvořák Theatre

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

Creative team

conductor **Jakub Klecker / Jiří Habart**

stage director **Jiří Nekvasil**

set designer **Petr Matásek**

costume designer **Zuzana Bambušek-Krejzková**

movement director **Jana Tomsová / Lea Bessoudo Greck**

chorus master **Jurij Galatenko**

dramaturg **Juraj Bajús**

Cast

Volfram Olbramovič **David Szendiuch**

Oldřich Rokycanský, a knight **Jiří Miroslav Procházka / Roman Vlkovič**

Junoš, young resident of Prague **Martin Javorský**

Jan Tausendmark, young resident of Prague **Martin Bárta / Pavel Divín**

Varneman, captain of Brandenburgers **Petr Levíček**

Jíra, a runaway serv **Luciano Mastro / Gianluca Zampieri**

Ludiše, Volfram's daughter **Veronika Rovná**

Vlčenka, Volfram's daughter **Anna Nitrová**

Děčana, Volfram's daughter **Michaela Zajmi**

Old villager **Martin Gurbaľ / Jan Šťáva**

Town crier **Petr Urbánek / Erik Ondruš**

Vagabond **Waldemar Wiczorek**

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NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE
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