



PRESS RELEASE

OPERA

Ostrava, Czech Republic

14 February 2025

NDM OPERA PRESENTS CZECH PREMIERE OF NINO ROTA'S *THE FLORENTINE STRAW HAT* – A COMIC MASTERPIECE FOR THE MODERN AGE

The Opera Company of the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre (NDM Opera) is thrilled to announce the Czech premiere of **Nino Rota's** sparkling comic opera ***THE FLORENTINE STRAW HAT*** (*Il cappello di paglia di Firenze*). This delightful four-act musical farce will open on 13 March 2025 at Ostrava's Antonín Dvořák Theatre, marking the culmination of the NDM's current opera season. A special guest performance will then take place at Prague's Estates Theatre on 14 April 2025, bringing this operatic gem to a wider audience.

While Rota (1911–1979) is celebrated worldwide for his unforgettable film scores – most notably for *The Godfather* trilogy and the films of Federico Fellini – his artistic legacy extends far beyond the silver screen. He was a prolific composer of orchestral, chamber, and stage works, and *The Florentine Straw Hat*, composed in 1945 and premiered in 1955 at Teatro Massimo in Palermo, remains one of the most frequently performed comic operas of the 20th century. Its enduring popularity and artistic value are underscored by recent revivals at prestigious venues like La Scala in Milan.

The opera's libretto is based on the classic French farce *Un chapeau de paille d'Italie* (1851) by Eugène Labiche and Marc Michel. This story is familiar to Czech audiences through the legendary stage adaptation by Jiří Voskovec and Jan Werich, as well as Oldřich Lipský's acclaimed 1971 film. The plot follows young groom Fadinard, whose wedding day descends into hilarious chaos when his horse inadvertently devours a rare Florentine straw hat belonging to another man's wife. His desperate quest to replace the hat and avoid scandal propels him on a frantic chase across 19th-century Paris, triggering a cascade of comical misadventures and mistaken identities.

Under the baton of conductor **Marek Šedivý** and the stage direction of **Jiří Nekvasil**, this Czech premiere promises to bring Rota's effervescent and playful score to life. The opera brims with dynamic orchestration, melodic inventiveness, and a theatrical wit reminiscent of Mozart and Rossini, yet retains a distinct mid-20th-century charm. It's a work that effortlessly bridges the gap between enthusiasts of classical opera and those drawn to the lighter, more accessible side of the genre.

The NDM Opera's production will feature an outstanding cast and a visually compelling stage design that captures the whimsical and energetic spirit of the opera. The Ostrava premiere will be followed by the special performance at the Estates Theatre in Prague,



NÁRODNÍ DIVADLO MORAVSKOSLEZSKÉ NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE

offering audiences beyond Ostrava the opportunity to experience this exhilarating operatic gem.

With its blend of timeless humour, brilliant music, and masterful storytelling, *The Florentine Straw Hat* is poised to delight audiences and solidify Nino Rota's place in the operatic canon.

All of the activities of the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre are financially supported by The Statutory City of Ostrava, The Moravian-Silesian Region, and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.



MINISTERSTVO
KULTURY



Moravskoslezský
kraj

OSTRAVA!!!

Show dates

1st premiere: 13.03.2025

2nd premiere: 15.03.2025

reruns in the 2024/2025 season: 20. and 27.03.; 01., 08., and 14.04. (14.04. at Prague's National Theatre - The Estates Theatre); 11.05.; 04.06.; 13.11.; 10., 19., and 31.12.2025

Sung in Italian with Czech and English surtitles

Venue

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

Creative team

music director **Marek Šedivý**

conductor **Jiří Habart / Marek Šedivý**

stage director **Jiří Nekvasil**

set designer **David Bazika**

costume designer **Zuzana Bambušek Krejzková**

movement director / gagman **Števo Capko**

chorus master **Jurij Galatenko**

dramaturg **Juraj Bajús**

Cast

Fadinard, a wealthy young man **Berk Dalkilić / Martin Šrejma**

Nonancourt, a farmer **Martin Gurbaľ / Miloš Horák**

Beaupertuis **Jiří Hájek / Roman Vlkoř**

Vezinet, a deaf person **Václav Morys / Josef Moravec**

Emilio, a lieutenant **Pavel Divín / Daniel Kfelř**



NÁRODNÍ DIVADLO MORAVSKOSLEZSKÉ NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE

Felice, Fadinard's servant **Martin Javorský / Peter Svetlík**
Achille of Rosalba / A guard **Rudolf Medňanský / Vincenc Ignác Novotný**
A corporal of the guards **Ihor Maryshkin / Tomasz Suchanek**
Minardi, a violinist **Vladimír Liberda / Jan Šošola**
Elena, Nonancourt's daughter **Lada Bočková / Veronika Rovná**
Anaide, Beaupertuis' wife **Miroslava Časarová / Barbora Perná**
A milliner **Marcela Gurbařová / Nikola Novotná**
The Baroness of Champigny **Anna Nitrová / Alžběta Vomáčková**

Including NDM Opera Chorus and NDM Opera Orchestra—concert masters **Jan Šošola** and **Lucie Staňková**

The NDM Opera Company

The NDM Opera Company, one of the oldest in the Czech Republic, is recognized for its high-quality programming and exceptional interpretation. Led by Music Director Marek Šedivý and Intendant Jiří Nekvasil, the company honours Ostrava's long-standing tradition of opera cycles, including the notable Smetana Opera Cycle and the Terežín Opera Cycle. Their predecessor's as well as their own dedication to excellence has affirmed the company's role as a distinguished cultural institution over the past decade.

About the National Moravian-Silesian Theatre

The NDM (Národní divadlo moravskoslezské, founded in 1919) is the largest and oldest professional theatre in Ostrava and the Moravian-Silesian Region, established by the Statutory City of Ostrava. The theatre is home to four artistic companies—opera, drama, ballet, and musical—that perform regularly on three permanent stages: the Antonín Dvořák Theatre, Jiří Myron Theatre, and the chamber Theatre 12. Each season, the theatre opens approximately 20 productions and stages nearly 500 performances. Beyond its regular productions, the NMST co-produces the drama festival OST-RA-VAR and the biennial opera festivals New Opera Days Ostrava (NODO) and Ostrava Days.

Mgr. Soňa Zapletalová

Foreign Relations Manager NDM
sona.zapletalova@ndm.cz
+420 725 716 375
+596 276 214

NATIONAL MORAVIAN-SILESIA THEATRE
established and funded by the Statutory City of Ostrava
Čs. legií 148/14, 701 04 Ostrava – Moravská Ostrava
www.ndm.cz/en

OSTRAVA!!!