

PRESS RELEASE

20 July 2011

The 2nd International Istanbul Opera Festival closes with a spectacular opera performance:

The Italian Girl in Algiers is in Istanbul

The 2nd International Istanbul Opera Festival which is organized by the **Directorate General of State Opera and Ballet** which has the mission to render opera and ballet as easily approachable fields of art and to offer these fields of art to the benefit of all sections of the community and by **DenizBank** which acts to support Turkey's cultural and artistic life, closes with the spectacular opera performance of "The Italian Girl in Algiers".

The last piece of the Festival which has been actualized with the idea of "Opera for Everyone" and under the art direction of Yekta Kara, chief director of the Directorate General of State Opera and Ballet will be staged on Thursday July 21st, at Sütlüce Haliç Congress Center. Famous Italian composer Gioacchino Rossini's "The Italian Girl in Algiers" opera will be performed by Karlsruhe State Opera with a modern approach.

The festival brought together tens of thousands art lovers throughout the world...

During the 3-week festival which is considered as a gift to Istanbul's artistic and cultural life, with the last piece, 8 opera productions at 6 different places, 18 performances and Elina Garanca's Gala concert impressed art lovers.

Throughout July 2011, Yıldız Palace, Topkapı Palace, Rumelian Castle and Cemil Topuzlu Open Air Theater hosted beautiful pieces of opera repertoire. The Abduction from the Seraglio, Fatih Sultan Mehmet, Zaide, Murad IV, Aşk-ı Memnu (The Forbidden Love) which have the theme of Turkish culture and life and have been staged with original historical décor within the repertoire of the 2nd International Istanbul Opera Festival.

Besides productions of Ankara, İstanbul, İzmir, Mersin, Antalya and Samsun State Opera and Ballet, world's most important and prestigious art institutions such as Karlsruhe Badisches State Theater and Munich Gärtnerplatz Theatre from Germany performed the best examples of opera as guest artists.

Moreover, globally known mezzosoprano Elina Garanca's Gala Concert was realized at Hagia Irene on July 13th.