

PRESS RELEASE

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Playing to full house at every performance, the 4th International Istanbul Opera Festival ends

The 4th International Istanbul Opera Festival, organized by the Directorate General of the State Opera and Ballet with the contributions of DenizBank, ended with the great interest of art lovers, after offering the experience of a spectacular feast of art. The closing performance of the Festival was Murad IV.

4th International Istanbul Opera Festival, organized by the **Directorate General of State Opera and Ballet** that continues activities with the mission of providing the arts of opera and ballet to all ranges of society under the main sponsorship of **DenizBank** that wishes to support culture and arts in Turkey, ended with the performance of Murad IV on July 8th, 2013. The festival offered a feast of art to the audience in its fourth year, again in the historic sites of Istanbul, with a program comprising of prominent pieces of opera composed with inspiration from the Turkish-Ottoman culture.

Having opened with G.Verdi's "Rigoletto" at Haliç Congress Center on June 25th, 2013, the 4th International Istanbul Opera Festival marked an organization creating a difference in the brand value of Istanbul with performances of Bajazet (Yıldırım Bayezid) at Süreyya Opera House, "Tulipmania" at Bahçeşehir Center for Culture and Arts, "The Abduction from the Seraglio" and "Murad IV" at Topkapi Palace.

With a rich program that suits Istanbul - the 2010 European Capital of Culture - the Festival that has embraced the art lovers for four years continues to feel the pulse of historic sites of Istanbul with the productions realized. Appreciated by art lovers with spectacular opera performances, gala concert and the participation of foreign guest artists, the 4th International Istanbul Opera Festival gave the audience a night full of surprises with "Viva Verdi" Gala Night as well as great performances by Ankara, Istanbul, Antalya and Samsun State Opera and Ballet.

Foreign guests gave a magic touch to the festival

Famous Russian soprano Ekaterina Siurina, known by her role of "Gilda" at many important opera houses of the world, and the Swiss soprano Christiane Boesiger, with her role "Konstanze" in the Abduction from the Seraglio, also known for her strong theatrical performance in the world of arts as well as her striking singing voice, were the two foreign artists that added color to the Festival.

Sharing the same stage at the Viva Verdi Gala Concert; famous guest artists soprano Davinia Rodriguez, tenors Stefano Secco and Marco Berti and bariton Marco Vratogna performed with the world famous Maestro Roberto Abbado as the conductor at the magnificent Hagia Irene. Stating that they were very happy to share the same stage with Turkish opera artists and were proud as they saw the great interest of Turkish art lovers, the foreign guest artists gave a magic touch to the festival.

The good news that this organization, which offered spectacular evenings to art lovers with performances throughout Istanbul and enlivened the historical sites of the city with arts, will be organized in the years to come was welcomed by the audience.