

STATE OPERA AND BALLETT**5th INTERNATIONAL ISTANBUL OPERA FESTIVAL****STARTS ON JUNE 3rd**

- **Bringing together the most prominent pieces from Turkish and world opera every year with art lovers, the International Istanbul Opera Festival is getting ready to greet its audience with a rich program and performances that will never be forgotten in its 5th year. The festival organized by the State Opera and Ballet with the contributions of DenizBank will be held between the dates of June 3-17, 2014.**
- **Besides the Dmitri Hvorostovsky Gala Concert to be held at Zorlu Center Performing Arts Center, 6 outstanding pieces by famous composers including W.A. Mozart, G. Verdi and Cemal Reşit Rey will be performed at 4 different locations.**

With the main sponsorship of **DenizBank** which is acting to support Turkey's culture and art life, the **5th International Istanbul Opera Festival** will be held between June 3-17, 2014 by the **Directorate General of State Opera and Ballet** having the mission to spread opera and ballet throughout our country.

The two-week festival will take place in June with the art directorship of Chief Stage Manager Yekta Kara and art lovers will have the chance to see 10 performances of 6 opera productions and a gala concert. Within the festival, the audience will see productions from Ankara, İstanbul, Samsun and Mersin State Opera and Ballet as well as the "Unexpected Encounter" opera by the Salzburger Landestheater.

The Gala Concert will be realized at Zorlu Center Performing Arts Center as the festival's closing will be marked by Dmitri Hvorostovsky, the world-famous Russian baritone. Dmitri Hvorostovsky will be accompanied by Conductor Constantine Orbelian, Soprano Ana Maria Martinez and Istanbul State Opera and Ballet Orchestra. The indispensable performer of opera halls, Dmitri Hvorostovsky is considered the world's most famous baritone alive.

Prof. Rengim Gökmen: "Opera is the major art event of a metropolis"

Director General and Art Director of State Opera and Ballet **Prof. Rengim Gökmen** said the following about the festival: "International Istanbul Opera Festival enabled the city of Istanbul to have a different position in the world class. Opera and ballet are major art events of a metropolis. This year's festival will stage pieces with Turkish, oriental and historical themes such as Attila, Mehmed the Conqueror, and The Abduction from the Seraglio. The hallmark of our festival, The Abduction from the Seraglio Opera will meet art lovers at the Garden of İstanbul Archeological Museums for the first time after Yıldız Palace and Topkapı Palace."



Hakan Ateş: “Opera has reached every part of the society thanks to the Festival”

DenizBank CEO **Hakan Ateş** expressed that they were content with the support they provided to the International Istanbul Opera Festival from the start until today. Ateş said, “The International Opera Festival has made a great impact in the global arena with the productions and organizations. Our support to the festival is a natural reflection of our approach, “Yes to Arts”, which we adopted since day of our establishment. Five years ago when we joint our forces with State Opera and Ballet, we had an objective to make a contribution towards the purpose to expand opera to all parts of society. Today, we are more than happy to have made such a contribution to the artistic and cultural life of our country. Within the scope of our social responsibility vision, we believe that the steps we take have a meaning to the extent we create a positive impact on the social life. We will continue to say “Yes to Arts” in Turkey with our sponsorship of Istanbul State Symphonic Orchestra for nine years, our contribution to the International Bodrum Ballet Festival and tens of different projects we carry out via our subsidiary DenizKültür.”

Yekta Kara: “In our country and throughout the world – Opera, always...”

Stage Director of Directorate General of Turkish State Opera and Ballet and Festival Art Director **Yekta Kara** said, “Opera renews itself all around the world. Modern productions that will break the dominance of popular culture and that will be loved by young people are produced everywhere. Within the scope of the International Istanbul Opera Festival, we want to highlight these pieces, provide wide coverage to operas with Turkish themes and to stage qualified productions which were not performed in Istanbul before. We trust young people in this renewal and transformation process- young people as commentators and audience. In a country like ours with a young population, it is natural that the intensive energy symbolized by young people is reflected on arts and opera. We are saying, “Opera, always”, believing that young people in our country will take this artistic event further in the future.”

The artistic event to mark the year 2014: The world’s most famous baritone alive, Dmitri Hvorostovsky is in Turkey!

At the closing of the festival on June 17, Tuesday evening, the indispensable and legendary performer of opera halls, Dmitri Hvorostovsky will meet art lovers in Istanbul at the Gala Concert. Having many pieces from recitals to operas in his discography, Dmitri Hvorostovsky performs classical pieces as well as popular folk songs in his own style. Having starred in 6 TV movies and series with classical music and opera themes, the famous baritone, who will be accompanied by soprano Ana Maria Martinez and Istanbul State Opera and Ballet Orchestra, will make the audience experience magical moments. The concert will be held at Zorlu Center Performing Arts Center and conducted by another famous name, Maestro Constantine Orbelian.

Tickets of the festival are available at Mybilet. Ticket prices vary between TL 20 – TL 150.

5th INTERNATIONAL ISTANBUL OPERA FESTIVAL**“Opera, always”****FESTIVAL PROGRAM**

DATE	PROGRAM	VENUE
3 June 2014	Attila Ankara State Opera and Ballet	Zorlu Center Performing Arts Center
6 June 2014	Mehmed the Conqueror Ankara State Opera and Ballet	Zorlu Center Performing Arts Center
9 -10 June 2014	The Abduction from the Seraglio Samsun State Opera and Ballet	Garden of İstanbul Archeological Museums
13 June 2014	Birjan and Sara Samsun State Opera and Ballet	Bakırköy Leyla Gencer Opera House
14 - 15 June 2014	The Unexpected Encounter Salzburger Landestheater	Kadıköy Süreyya Opera House
15 – 16 June 2014	Luxury World Mersin State Opera and Ballet	Bakırköy Leyla Gencer Opera House
17 June 2014	Dmitri Hvorostovsky Gala Concert	Zorlu Center Performing Arts Center