

2026/27 Season Presentation

Artistic diversity in times of austerity: Oper Leipzig presents the 2026/27 season

Demonstrating a clear commitment to artistic diversity, Oper Leipzig presented its 2026/27 season on 26 March. At the Opera House, Lydia Schubert and her artistic leadership team unveiled a programme that consciously prioritises diversity, quality and audience engagement, despite challenging financial conditions. Together with General Music Director Ivan Repušić, Opera Director Juliane Postberg, Leipzig Ballet Director Rémy Fichet, Musikalische Komödie Director Torsten Rose and Chief Dramaturge Marlene Hahn, Lydia Schubert – Administrative Director and Managing Director (Intendant) from 1 August 2026 – will be responsible for the coming two seasons.

In her welcoming address, Dr Skadi Jennicke, Mayor for Culture in Leipzig, said: »For Leipzig Opera, these two seasons under a single management team offer an opportunity to reflect on its inner strength. The creative potential of the staff is immense, and in the upcoming season it may well unfold to new, perhaps quite surprising heights. I am certain that the Leipzig Opera will emerge from these two seasons stronger than ever. «

15 premieres, 34 revivals and a German premiere

With 15 premieres and 34 revivals, the new season encompasses a broad and varied programme spanning opera, the Leipzig Ballet, the Musikalische Komödie and the Young Opera. New productions meet well-known repertoire works, complemented by formats that further strengthen both venues as open houses for a wide audience. A particular highlight is the German premiere at the Musikalische Komödie. The new season will open on 5 September 2026: Oper Leipzig will open its doors for a behind-the-scenes experience, featuring theatrical magic, technical demonstrations and a diverse programme for the whole family. The musical highlight will be the festive closing concert conducted by Ivan Repušić with the Opera Chorus and the Gewandhausorchester, alongside guests including Elbenita Kajtazi, Martin Muehle and Lucio Gallo.

Lydia Schubert views the period leading up to the new directorship in 2028 as an open creative space and a vibrant meeting place for all, with the aim of making the artistic quality and strength of Oper Leipzig even more visible within the city's diverse society: »As a native of Leipzig, it is particularly important to me to further open up Oper Leipzig in all its divisions. We aim to surprise audiences with innovative formats of

encounter and performance in newly developed spaces, and to broaden perspectives through artistically multifaceted impulses, so that Oper Leipzig can be rediscovered time and again.«

Opera 2026/27

New productions of »Eugene Onegin«, »The Marriage of Figaro«, »Innocence« and »Il trittico« will take to the opera stage in Leipzig in 2026/27. The first premiere takes place on 10 October 2026, with General Music Director Ivan Repušić conducting the Gewandhausorchester: Tchaikovsky's »**Eugene Onegin**« will be presented in the acclaimed production by Vasily Barkhatov, whose musical and emotional insight is sure to captivate Leipzig audiences. Mozart's celebrated opera buffa »**The Marriage of Figaro**« follows on 29 November 2026, completing the Da Ponte trilogy in Leipzig: »Don Giovanni« and »Così fan tutte« are correspondingly included among the season's revivals. Ilario Lanzino directs, with Yura Yang conducting. On 6 March 2027, the contemporary work »**Innocence**« by the Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho will celebrate its Leipzig premiere as part of a further co-production. Its German premiere at Musiktheater im Revier, staged by Elisabeth Stöppler, will be conducted by Matthias Foremny. General Music Director Ivan Repušić, together with the renowned French director Boussard brings Puccini's operatic triptych »**Il trittico**« to its first Leipzig performance on 17 April 2027. Eros and Thanatos – the drives of life and death – stand at the centre of the three compelling one-act operas »Il tabarro«, »Suor Angelica« and »Gianni Schicchi«.

Leipzig Ballet 2026/27

The ballet premieres at the Opera House, artistically curated by Ballet Director Rémy Fichet, strike a deliberate balance between tradition and the future. The Leipzig Ballet opens the season with a new work by Brazilian choreographer Juliano Nunes based on Shakespeare's »**A Midsummer Night's Dream**«, set in part to the well-known music of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy; the premiere takes place on 7 November 2026. On 6 February 2027, the double bill »**Sibelius / Bruckner**« comes to the stage: Uwe Scholz's legendary choreography to the third movement of Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 8, with stage and costume design by the artist rosalie, is paired with a new creation – Anne Jung develops a choreography with the company to Sibelius's second symphony.

On 3 April 2027, Leipzig Ballet presents a new edition of its Black Box series: Andrea Carino, Marcelino Libao and Vincenzo Timpa create works inspired by Rainer Maria Rilke's »Duineser Elegien«. »**Elegien – Black Box II**« will be a co-production with Schauspiel Leipzig, with performances taking place at the Schauspielhaus. »**O Fortuna**«, the Leipzig Ballet premiere on 15 May 2027, also involves the ensemble,

Opera Chorus and Children's Chorus of Oper Leipzig. Director and choreographer Andreas Heise and co-director Marlene Hahn interweave Leoncavallo's »Pagliacci« with Orff's »Carmina Burana«. Musical direction is by Ivan Repušić.

Musikalische Komödie 2026/27

The season at the venue Musikalische Komödie opens with the German premiere of the award-winning musical »**The Hare with Amber Eyes**«, Oper Leipzig's central contribution to »Tacheles – Year of Jewish Culture« in the Free State of Saxony. The tragic story of the Jewish banking family Ephrussi and their flight from National Socialism combines profound emotional depth with a richly expressive musical language and is directed by the author Henry Mason himself. The music is composed by Thomas Zaufke; musical direction is by Michael Nündel, Music Director of the Musikalische Komödie. The premiere takes place on 17 October 2026.

Two major new operetta productions ideally complement the repertoire of the Musikalische Komödie: on 20 March 2027, one of the most famous operettas by Franz Lehár, »**The Merry Widow**«, celebrates its premiere. André Kaczmarczyk will stage this romantic comedy with a touch of escapism and social critique. First Kapellmeister Tobias Engeli will conduct. On 5 June 2027, Offenbach's satirical opéra bouffe »**La Grande-Duchesse de Gérolstein**« returns to Leipzig after 59 years – more topical than ever in its questioning of power structures and its combination of humour and critique. The production is directed by Philipp Moschitz, with musical direction by Michael Nündel.

The second musical premiere of the season, »**tick, tick... BOOM!**«, on 15 January 2027, returns to the Venussaal in a new production. Inken Meents stages the dynamic three-person piece, with Christoph-Johannes Eichhorn conducting the vibrant score by »Rent« composer Jonathan Larson.

Young Opera Leipzig 2026/27

Under the direction of Marie Czilwik, Young Opera Leipzig brings eight popular productions for audiences of all ages back into the programme and plans three further premieres for the 2026/27 season. Marlene Hahn stages the socially critical chamber opera »**War. What if it were here?**« by Marius Felix Lange on the revolving stage of the Opera House, positioning orchestra and audience behind the iron curtain beneath the stage canopy. Musical direction is by Sebastian Camaño Saavedra; the premiere is on 10 June 2027. Prior to this, two much-loved children's stories are transformed into music theatre: on 15 September 2026, »**The Ugly Duckling**« premieres in the Venussaal of the Musikalische Komödie. Marko Drechsel, clarinetist in

the orchestra of the Musikalische Komödie, has created a new version of the famous fairy tale for string quartet, narrator, and dancer. On 22 February 2027, »**The Story of a Little Mole who knew it was None of his Business**« celebrates its premiere. Elisabeth Naske has transformed the well-known picture book into a charming children's opera for a singer, an actor, and viola.

In addition, the Young Opera programme includes baby concerts, a wide variety of participatory formats, guided tours, and workshops. The Children's Chorus of Oper Leipzig now comprises over 230 children and young people. Alongside the four existing play clubs for all generations, the participatory programme also introduces the new pub choir of the Musikalische Komödie, »Singbar«, open to all aged 16 and above and led by music theatre educator Mieke Müllerschön.

Ticket sales in three steps

Advance ticket sales for the new season at Leipzig Opera begin on Tuesday, 2 June 2026. Until then, single tickets will be available exclusively to Leipzig Opera season ticket holders. Tickets will be available in three phases: Leipzig Opera season tickets are available now; from 28 April 2026, the Leipzig Opera Card for the new season will go on sale, and tickets for the 2026/27 season will also be available from that date. General advance sales will then begin on 2 June 2026.

Tickets can be ordered online at www.oper-leipzig.de or via the Oper Leipzig visitor service Tuesday to Friday, 10 am–6 pm; Saturday, 12–6 pm at the box office in the Opera House, or by telephone at + 49 (0)341-12 61 261.

[oper-leipzig.de/en](http://www.oper-leipzig.de/en)

Oper Leipzig continues the tradition of more than 330 years of music theatre in Leipzig: the first opera house on Brühl was opened in 1693 as the third civic music theatre in Europe after Venice and Hamburg. Since 1840, the world-renowned Gewandhausorchester has accompanied all opera performances and those of Leipzig Ballet. In addition to the present-day Opera House on Augustusplatz, built in 1960, Oper Leipzig also includes the Musikalische Komödie in the Lindenau district, a venue specialising in operetta and musical theatre with its own ensembles. With more than 720 employees, the city's largest municipal cultural institution comprises five pillars: the Opera, the Musikalische Komödie, Leipzig Ballet, the Young Opera and the 360° Education programme, as well as the costume and theatre workshops, which produce for all the city's stages.

www.oper-leipzig.de

Oper Leipzig Premieres 2026/27

OPERA

EUGENE ONEGIN

Peter I. Tchaikovsky

PREMIERE on 10 Oct 2026, Opera House

Musical direction: Ivan Repušić

Production: Vasily Barkhatov

Set design: Zinovy Margolin

Costumes: Olga Shaishmelashvili

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

PREMIERE on 29 Nov 2026, Opera House

Musical direction: Yura Yang

Production: Ilaria Lanzino

Set design: Dirk Becker

Costumes: Annette Braun

INNOCENCE

Kaija Saariaho

Cooperation with Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen

PREMIERE on 06 Mar 2027, Opera House

Musical direction: Matthias Foremny

Production: Elisabeth Stöppler

Set design: Ines Nadler

Costumes: Frank Lichtenberg

IL TRITICO

Giacomo Puccini

PREMIERE on 17 Apr 2027, Opera House

Musical direction: Ivan Repušić

Production: Vincent Boussard

Set design: Frank Philipp Schloßmann

Costumes: Christian Lacroix

LEIPZIG BALLET

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Ballet by Juliano Nunes | Music by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, Samuel Barber et al.

PREMIERE on 07 Nov 2026, Opera House

Musical direction: Matthias Foremny

SIBELIUS / BRUCKNER

Double bill by Anne Jung and Uwe Scholz | Music by Jean Sibelius and Anton Bruckner

PREMIERE on 06 Feb 2027, Opera House

Musical direction: Christoph Gedschold

SYMPHONY NO. 2, JEAN SIBELIUS

CHOREOGRAPHIC WORLD PREMIERE

Choreography: Anne Jung

Costumes: Melchior Silbersack

SYMPHONY NO. 8, THIRD MOVEMENT

ADAGIO, ANTON BRUCKNER

Choreography: Uwe Scholz

Set & costumes: rosalie,

ELEGIEN – BLACK BOX II

Triple bill by Andrea Carino, Marcelino Libao and Vincenzo Timpa

A co-production of Leipzig Ballet and Schauspiel Leipzig

PREMIERE on 03 Apr 2027, Schauspielhaus

Concept of the series: Rémy Fichet

O FORTUNA

Ballet by Andreas Heise

»Pagliacci« by Ruggero Leoncavallo

»Carmina Burana« by Carl Orff

PREMIERE on 15 May 2027, Opera House

Musical direction: Ivan Repušić

Choreography & direction: Andreas Heise

Co-direction: Marlene Hahn

MUSIKALISCHE KOMÖDIE

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THE HARE WITH AMBER EYES
Thomas Zaufke | Henry Mason

German premiere
PREMIERE on 17 Oct 2026, Musikalische Komödie
Musical direction: Michael Nündel
Production: Henry Mason
Choreography: Lorna Dawson
Set, costumes: Jan Meier

TICK, TICK... BOOM!
Jonathan Larson

PREMIERE on 15 Jan 2027, Venussaal Musikalische Komödie
Musical direction: Christoph-Johannes Eichhorn
Production: Inken Meents
Choreography: Mirko Mahr
Set design: Frank Schmutzler
Costumes Vanessa Rath

THE MERRY WIDOW
Franz Lehár

PREMIERE on 20 Mar 2027, Musikalische Komödie
Musical direction: Tobias Engeli
Production: André Kaczmarczyk
Choreography: Mirko Mahr
Set design: Ansgar Prüwer
Costumes: Martina Lebert

LA GRANDE-DUCHESS DE GÉROLSTEIN
Jacques Offenbach

PREMIERE on 05 Jun 2027, Musikalische Komödie
Musical direction: Michael Nündel
Production: Philipp Moschitz
Choreography: N. N.
Set design: Matthias Engelmann
Costumes: Claudio Pohle

YOUNG OPERA LEIPZIG

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Press release 26 March 2026

THE UGLY DUCKLING

A musical fairy tale by Marko Drechsel | after Hans Christian Andersen

PREMIERE on 15 Sep 2026, Venussaal Musikalische Komödie

Stage realisation and dramaturgy: Inken Meents, Romy Sarakacianis

Choreography & costumes: Sara Brandão

Set design: Frank Schmutzler

THE STORY OF THE LITTLE MOLE WHO KNEW IT WAS NONE OF HIS BUSINESS

Children's opera by Elisabeth Naske | Libretto by Ela Baumann |

after the eponymous children's book by Werner Holzwarth and Wolf Erlbruch

PREMIERE on 22 Feb 2027, Probebühne 2 (rehearsal stage), Opera House

Production: Franziska Schumacher

Set & costumes: Hyeonsu Jung

WAR. WHAT IF IT WERE HERE?

Marius Felix Lange

PREMIERE on 10 Jun 2027, Drehbühne (revolving stage), Opera House

Musical direction: Sebastian Camaño Saavedra

Production: Marlene Hahn

Set design: Dirk Becker

Costumes: N. N.

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