

UN DAY CONCERT 2016

24 October 2016
7:00 p.m.

General Assembly Hall,
United Nations Headquarters

HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA
WITH SOPRANO
Andrea Rost

FREEDOM FIRST PROGRAMME



Presented by the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations
Sponsored by the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight 60th Anniversary Memorial Board

OPENING

Welcoming remarks:

- ∞ Under-Secretary-General **Ms. Cristina Gallach**
- ∞ **H. E. Ms. Katalin Bogyay**, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations

Speakers:

- ∞ **H. E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon**, United Nations Secretary-General
- ∞ **H. E. Mr. Peter Thomson**, President of the General Assembly
- ∞ **Dr. László Szabó**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary

A NIGHT WITH THE HUNGARIAN STATE OPERA

Conductor: Kálmán Szennai

Concertmaster: Galina Danyilova

I. FREEDOM FIRST

- ∞ **Ferenc Erkel: Hunyadi László Overture**
- ∞ **Zoltán Kodály: Spinning Room (Song of the young girl)**
Soprano: Andrea Rost, Tenor: Boldizsár László
- ∞ **Ferenc Erkel: Bánk Bán – Aria of Melinda**
Soprano: Andrea Rost
Viola d'amore: Veronika Botos
- ∞ **Hector Berlioz: Rákoczi March**

II. ONLY FROM THE CLEAR SPRING

- ∞ **Béla Bartók : Evening in the village**
Piano: Kálmán Szennai
- ∞ **Béla Bartók: Romanian Folk Dances**
Piano: Rohan De Silva (Sri Lanka – USA)
Violin: Galina Danyilova
- ∞ **Béla Bartók: Violin duets**
Violin: Angela and Jennifer Chun (Republic of Korea – USA)
- ∞ **Music from Australia**
David Yardley: Bold Jack Donohue
- ∞ **Music from Denmark**
Oh Land: Lean

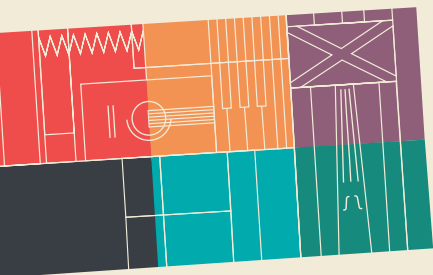
III. DIVERSITY: A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

- ∞ **Zoltán Kodály: Háry János Suite, mov. 5. Intermezzo**
with dancers of the Hungarian National Ballet
- ∞ **Johann Strauss: Die Fledermaus, Act II. Rosalinde's aria**
Soprano: Andrea Rost
with dancers of the Hungarian National Ballet
- ∞ **Johannes Brahms: Hungarian Dance No. 5**
Guest conductor: Gerard Schwarz

ENCORE

- ∞ **Johannes Brahms: Hungarian Dance No. 6**
with dancers of the Hungarian National Ballet





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BIOGRAPHIES



ANDREA ROST (Soprano)

The Hungarian-born soprano Andrea Rost achieved international prominence soon after graduating from the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Budapest. Early in her career, she became a member of the Hungarian State Opera, where she made her debut as Juliette in Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*. Andrea Rost is acclaimed as one of the most compelling lyric sopranos today, performing leading roles in the most prestigious European opera houses, including the Vienna State Opera, La Scala of Milan, the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden and the Paris Opera. She performed in several productions at the Salzburg Festival, including R. Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten* (Voice of the Falcon, under Georg Solti), Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione de Poppea* (Drusilla, under Nikolaus Harnoncourt), Verdi's *Traviata* (Violetta, under Riccardo Mutti), and Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* (Xenia, under Claudio Abbado).

Riccardo Muti invited the soprano to La Scala di Milano for the premiere of *Rigoletto* in 1994. Interpreting Gilda she enjoyed huge international success and she has been a regular guest singer in La Scala ever since. In 1995, she was already a celebrated star when she sang in *The Magic Flute* for the season-opening premiere at La Scala. These roles were followed in Milano by Susanna of Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Violetta in Verdi's *Traviata*. At the Salzburg Festival she interpreted several important roles and worked with widely renowned conductors. She sang the Falcon in Richard Strauss's *Die Frau ohne Schatten* under Sir George Solti and she performed Drusilla of Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* with Nikolaus Harnoncourt. In Paris at L'Opéra Bastille, in addition to Susanna, Gilda and Lucia di Lammermoor she also sang Antonia in Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. In the Royal Opera House in London she made her debut as Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, where she also sang Violetta with great success.

Her first U.S. performance took place at the Metropolitan Opera in 1996 as Adina in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*. This was followed by performances at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, the Chicago Lyric Opera, and in Los Angeles. Over the past years audiences enjoyed her magnificent performances singing Countess in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Desdemona in Verdi's *Otello*, Nedda in Puccini's *Bohème* and Marguerite in *Faust*. She also won acclaim for her performances of Puccini's female characters Liu, Mimi and Butterfly.



Gerard Schwarz (Guest Conductor)

Internationally recognized for his moving performances, innovative programming and extensive catalog of recordings, American conductor Gerard Schwarz serves as Music Director of The All-Star Orchestra an ensemble of top musicians from America's leading orchestras featured in television programs that have aired throughout the United States, and is the basis for their Khan Academy education platform that has reached over 4 million students. Schwarz also serves as Music Director of the Eastern Music Festival in North Carolina and Conductor Laureate of the Seattle Symphony.

His considerable discography of over 350 showcases his collaborations with some of the world's greatest orchestras including Philadelphia Orchestra, London Symphony, Berlin Radio Symphony, Orchestre National de France, Tokyo Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, New York Chamber Symphony and Seattle Symphony among others.

Schwarz, a renowned interpreter of 19th century German, Austrian and Russian repertoire, in addition to his noted work with contemporary American composers, completed his final season as music director of the Seattle Symphony in 2011 after an acclaimed 26 years a period of dramatic artistic growth for the ensemble.

In his nearly five decades as a respected classical musician and conductor, Schwarz has received hundreds of honors and accolades including Emmy Awards, GRAMMY nominations, ASCAP Awards and the Ditson Conductor's Award. He was the first American named Conductor of the Year by Musical America and has received numerous honorary doctorates. The City of Seattle and named the street alongside the Benaroya Hall "Gerard Schwarz Place."



Kálmán Szennai (Conductor)

Kálmán Szennai was born in 1973, in Budapest, where he studied piano and horn at the Béla Bartók High School of Music, and later, musicology and conducting at the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music. He received his diploma in 1996, as a student of Ervin Lukács and Tamás Gál. After completing his studies, Géza Oberfrank hired him to work at the Hungarian State Opera, where he first served as a répétiteur, and later as a conductor. He has conducted at the Opera House regularly ever since. He has made guest appearances in Japan, Austria, Germany, and has been a recurring guest at the Budapest Operetta Theatre as well. He has conducted the Savaria Symphony Orchestra, the MAV Symphony Orchestra and the Budapest Festival Orchestra, and is a regular guest at the Jennersdorf and St. Margarethen opera festivals. He is a winner of the Komor, Juventus and Pless prizes.

A circular portrait of Boldizsár László, a man with dark hair and a beard, resting his head on his hand.

Boldizsár László (Tenor)

Born in Keszthely, tenor Boldizsár László grew up in Paks, where he began his life in music at age seven at the local music school. After spending 15 years as the front man for the Cotton Club Singers jazz ensemble that he founded, he then went on to further his career in the genre of opera. He mastered the bel canto technique under two superb teachers, first studying under Olga Sík, and later under Berle Sanford Rosenberg, who herself was one of Carlo Bergoni's last students. In the first four years of his career as an opera singer, he sang principal tenor parts in 14 operas and three operettas. He made his debut with the Hungarian State Opera in 2012, in the role of Pinkerton. Apart from his performances at Budapest's opera house, he has also been a regular guest at the Slovak National Theatre in Bratislava and the National Theatre of Szeged, and has also made several appearances in each Győr, Miskolc, Košice, Prague, Estonia and Cluj-Napoca.

A circular portrait of Rohan De Silva, a man in a tuxedo and bow tie, smiling.

Rohan De Silva (Pianist)

Rohan De Silva has partnered with violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman in worldwide recitals, and every notable violinist on the concert stage today. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Library of Congress, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Wigmore Hall in London, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, and at the White House at the invitation of President Obama in 2012 for Shimon Peres; and at a State Dinner in 2007 hosted by President George W. Bush for Queen Elizabeth. A native of Sri Lanka, Mr. De Silva was invited in 2015 by the Prime Minister of his country to perform for Secretary of State John Kerry on his historic visit to Sri Lanka. In the 2016-17 season, Mr. De Silva performs with Itzhak Perlman in recitals that take them across North America. In the 2015-16 season, Mr. De Silva toured with Mr. Perlman in sold-out concerts throughout Asia and to Europe. Mr. De Silva spent six years at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and received many awards including the Grover Bennett Scholarship, the Christian Carpenter Prize, the Martin Music Scholarship, the Harold Craxton Award, and the Chappell Gold Medal. He was awarded Best Accompanist at the Ninth International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow, and received the Samuel Sanders Collaborative Artist Award.

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Oh Land (Composer, Singer)

Nanna Øland Fabricius, known to fans around the world as the artist Oh Land, came in to the music scene in 2008 under less than conventional circumstances. When 10 years of training and a budding career in ballet was abruptly ended by injury, a life in music began. At the age of 22, Fabricius wrote and produced her first album *Fauna*, which was released to much critical acclaim. Fabricius has since released 4 studio albums and collaborated with reknown producers Dave Sitek, Dave McCracken and Dan Carey amongst many others. As a writer she has worked with Sia, John Legend and Pharrell, to name a few. Fabricius has spent the better part of the past 5 years headlining tours, inter-mixed with supporting dates for such acts as Katy Perry and Sia. In recent years Fabricius has “crossed over” into the classical music world, as well, playing with Lang Lang and Joshua Bell in Carnegie Hall and orchestrating whole concerts for the symphony orchestra in her native country of Denmark. Her most recent work is a 40 minute ballet for the Danish theatre “Antomimeteatret” in Tivoli, Copenhagen collaboration with none other than the Queen of Denmark, Queen Margrethe II.

Angela & Jennifer Chun (Violinists)

Award winning sister violinists Angela and Jennifer Chun are one of today’s foremost classical ensemble. Sisters’ eloquent artistry captivated audiences and critics and their top selling recordings top charts of Billboards and iTunes around the world. They have performed at the London Bach festival, Ravinia festival, Aspen Music festival and Mostly Mozart working with conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Sir Andre Previn, Thomas Sanderling, Ivan Fischer, and orchestras including London Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony Orchestra, London Bach orchestra, Budapest Festival Orchestra and National Symphony Orchestra in Kennedy Center. They worked with modern masters Gyorgy Kurtag, Gyorgy Ligeti, Philip Glass, Sebastian Currier, Kaija Saariaho and Korean / German Composer Isang Yun. Angela and Jennifer are String mentors of Royal Academy of Music in London a prestige position which given to very few highly accomplished artists.

David Yardley (Singer, Harpist)

David Yardley specialises in medieval and Renaissance European music and has performed as a countertenor and harpist in Canberra, Sydney, the United Kingdom, the United States and Afghanistan, as a soloist and in ensembles. He has recently concluded a role singing with the professional choir of Southwark Cathedral, London. He has sung with a number of highly regarded ensembles, including the renowned Choir of Jesus College, Cambridge. David is also active as a director and as a composer.

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON UNITED NATIONS DAY



This year's observance of United Nations Day occurs at a time of transition for the world and for the United Nations.

Humanity has entered the era of sustainability – with a global commitment to fulfil the great promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this, the Organization's 71st year, we have 17 goals to propel us towards a better future for all on a healthy planet.

The world is also moving at long last beyond the mindset which viewed the burning of fossil fuels as the path to prosperity. At a time of record heat, Member States have embraced the Paris Agreement on climate change in record time. This landmark measure will enter into force on 4 November. Across that historic threshold lies our best chance for greener, cleaner, low-carbon growth.

The United Nations is also in transition, from its eighth Secretary-General to the ninth. I have been honoured to serve “we the peoples” for the past ten years. Together, we have put in place some solid foundations for shared progress – which we must build on by working even harder to empower women, engage youth and uphold human rights for all. But we have also suffered enormous heartbreak – including unresolved conflicts causing immense suffering throughout the troubled Middle East, South Sudan, the Sahel and beyond. On these and other frontlines of violence and disaster, courageous UN staff continue to rise to the occasion and respond to the plight of the vulnerable.

I thank people across the world for their support -- and urge all to give their full backing to Secretary-General-designate Antonio Guterres in continuing our global mission of peace, sustainable development and human rights.

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