

PRESS RELEASE

Budapest, 2 July 2009

Erste presents: Metropolitan Opera Nights in Szeged

Budapest, 2 July 2009 – As of this autumn Szeged’s Belvárosi Mozi [Downtown Movie Theatre] joins the program „The Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD”, offering opera fans live broadcasts of the performances of the New York Metropolitan Opera (MET). This program in Szeged is also sponsored by Erste Bank.

It was last summer when the opportunity first rose for Szeged citizens to enjoy opera performances of the MET in live digital broadcasts, but the technical background of the movie theatre did not meet the demanding requirements described by the world’s most renowned opera house.

However, the renovation and upgrade of the movie theatre was completed in the meantime, and a High Definition projector with its giant screen that ensures perfect picture quality and a 5.1 channel Dolby sound system have been installed, making it possible for opera aficionados in Szeged to join the live broadcasts that are available to more than a million viewers in North America and at 800 locations in Canada, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

The fourth season of *The Met: Live in HD* (the second for Budapest and the first for Szeged) starts on 10 October, presenting nine out of the ten most popular operas ever composed. This year’s repertoire ranges from Rossini to Richard Strauss, selecting masterpieces mostly from grand romanticism and Verismo.

In respect of the Metropolitan Nights, Ms. Emese Danks, PR manager of Erste Bank, has said: “Erste Bank is proud to have lent a helping hand to such a high-quality artistic performance first in 2008 when the program debuted in Hungary in Művészetek Palotája [Palace of Arts] and also this year in Szeged.” The best indication of the success this initiative has reaped is the fact that the season tickets for *The Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD* 2009/2010 Budapest were sold out in just five and half hours. Season tickets for the Szeged program start selling on 10 July.

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