

SEASON 2011/2012

Choreographic creativity is the recurring theme of THE HAMBURG BALLET's season 2011/2012. With *Liliom*, a world premiere both in choreography and music, John Neumeier creates a "ballet legend", based on Ferenc Molnár's play of the same title. The score was commissioned by THE HAMBURG BALLET and the Hamburgische Staatsoper, Michel Legrand, celebrated film composer and Oscar winner, is currently working on a score characterised by elements of classical and jazz music. It will be performed jointly by the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra and the NDR Bigband. For the first time since Lera Auerbach's score for *The Little Mermaid* (2005/2007) a music is composed specially for a ballet by John Neumeier.

For the second premiere, *Renku*, John Neumeier and his company re-conceptualise a Japanese form of poetry for dance: A "renku" is composed of verses by various poets, successively creating the poem. *Renku* will bring together several choreographers, each contributing to the work in their personal style, thus creating a comprehensive, but diverse ballet. Among the choreographers involved will be ensemble members Orkan Dann and Yuka Oishi, this year's winner of the Dr. Wilhelm Oberdörffer Award of the Hamburgische Staatsoper.

The first revival of the season will be John Neumeier's celebrated symphonic ballet *Third Symphony by Gustav Mahler*. It was performed for the last time in Hamburg in 2004. As the season's second revival, THE HAMBURG BALLET will present *The Little Mermaid*. John Neumeier's ballet based on Hans Christian Andersen's tale was successfully premiered in San Francisco and Moscow in 2010 and 2011.

Two celebrated principals will be guest dancers at THE HAMBURG BALLET in 2011/2012. John Neumeier will create the leading female role in *Liliom*, Julie, for Alina Cojocaru. Furthermore, the Romanian dancer will make her debut in the title role of *Lady of the Camellias* in autumn. The second guest will be Roberto Bolle: He will dance Armand in *Lady of the Camellias* in autumn as well as the title role of *Orpheus*, a part created for him by John Neumeier. The guest company of the 38th Hamburger Ballett-Tage in June 2012 will be the San Francisco Ballet.

Further highlights at THE HAMBURG BALLET in 2011/2012 include: The School of THE HAMBURG BALLET will return to the Ernst Deutsch Theater with the *Creativity Work Shop III*. The *Young Choreographers* will continue their collaboration with Deutsches Schauspielhaus and perform new choreographies of company members. Furthermore, the National Youth Ballet will create new artistic outreach and to promote the social relevance of dance, focusing on young audiences. The company, consisting of eight young dance professionals aged 18 to 23, will start to work at the beginning of the season, being based at the Ballettzentrum Hamburg – John Neumeier. They will build their own repertoire, mostly from younger choreographers' works, and are to perform not only in theatres, but also in new venues, including schools, museums, nurseries and even prisons. In addition, tours throughout Germany and abroad are intended.

Premiere I

World premiere

LILIOM

Ballet legend by John Neumeier based on a play by Ferenc Molnár

Music

Michel Legrand

Score commissioned by THE HAMBURG BALLET | Hamburgische Staatsoper

Choreography, Staging and Costumes

John Neumeier

Stage Design

Ferdinand Wögerbauer

Conductor

Simon Hewett

A cooperation with the NDR Bigband

Premiere A:

December 4, 2011, 6.00 p.m.

Premiere B:

December 6, 2011, 7.30 p.m.

Performances:

December 10, 19, 20, 2011,

January 5, 6, 2012,

June 28, 2012,

at 7.30 p.m.

“My aim was to tell the story of a Budapest suburb in such a simple and naive way as it might have been told by the old ladies of outer Josefstadt. I did not want to put more meaning into the symbolic figures and the celestial beings than a modest vagabond might do when thinking about them.”

Ferenc Molnár

Molnár's play, first performed in 1909, was the basis for the musical *Carousel*. As the first premiere in the 2011/2012 season, John Neumeier will create a ballet, based on the play, on a specially commissioned score. French composer Michel Legrand is currently working on the music, combining elements of classical music and jazz. John Neumeier creates the leading female role, Julie, for Alina Cojocaru, Principal of the Royal Ballet London. She will be dancing on December 4, 6, 20, 2011 as well as on January 5, 2012.

“In 1909, when the "Ballets Russes" performed in Paris for the first time, Ferenc Molnár's play *Liliom* premiered in Budapest. In his 'suburban legend', the Hungarian writer tells the story of a petty criminal, who, overburdened by life and its ways, turns to more serious crimes. Feeling ashamed towards his mistress and their unborn child, he commits suicide. But even in the after world he cannot escape his destiny. Using a commissioned score by the celebrated, Oscar-winning film composer Michel Legrand I am trying to bring this moving tragicomedy to the stage with the means of ballet. The world premiere of *Liliom* promises to be an exciting cooperation between the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra and the NDR Bigband.”

John Neumeier

About the composer Michel Legrand

“Ever since I was a boy, my ambition has been to live completely surrounded by music. My dream is not to miss out on anything. That is why I have never settled on one musical discipline. I love playing, conducting, singing and writing, and in all styles. So I turn my hand to everything – not just a bit of everything. Quite the opposite, I do all these activities at once, seriously, sincerely and with deep commitment.”

This is how Michel Legrand, born in Paris in 1932, describes his artistic identity. As a composer, conductor, pianist, singer, writer and producer he has worked as a boundary spanner between various genres: jazz, classical music and easy listening. After completing his composition and piano studies at the Paris conservatory (among his teachers were Nadia Boulanger, Henri Challan and Noël Gallon) he started working as an accompanist musical director with various chansonniers, among others Maurice Chevalier. His first album “I love Paris” made it to the top of the US album charts in 1954. In the 1950’s, he started composing for the singers he was accompanying. With the music *Les Amants du Tage* by Henri Verneuil he created his first soundtrack in 1955. As a composer for films by Jean-Luc Godard, Agnès Varda, François Reichenbach and Jacques Demy, he became a protagonist of the young French cinema.

In 1964 he contributed the music to Demy’s film *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg* – a cinematic musical. Even from today’s point of view the way the film’s dialogue was completely sung is revolutionary. Two years later, this work was followed by *Les Demoiselles de Rochefort*, another work of Demy’s. These films created the foundation for his international career. Legrand also composed the music for Norman Jewison’s *The Thomas Crown Affair* (1968), including the famous song “The Windmills of Your Mind”. This was followed by Jacques Deray’s *The Swimming Pool* (1968) with Romy Schneider and Alain Delon, Richard Lester’s “Musketeers”-films (1973 and 1974) and numerous other productions. Examples for his work in the 1980’s are *Yentl* (1983, Barbra Streisand) and the James-Bond-movie *Never Say Never Again* (1983, Irvin Kershner), in the 1990’s and 2000’s he contributed to *Prêt-à-Porter* (1994, Robert Altman) and *And now... Ladies and Gentlemen* (2002, Claude Lelouch).

Legrand has been nominated for the Oscar thirteen times and several times for the Golden Globe. He has won the Oscar three times: for his musical scores of *Summer of ‘42* (1971, Robert Mulligan) and *Yentl*, as well as in the category “Best Song” for “The Windmills of Your Mind”. This song was also awarded with the Golden Globe.

Moreover, Michel Legrand composed for different TV productions (such as the *Once Upon a Time... -series*) as well as musicals (*Amour*, 2003; *Marguerite*, 2008) and produced jazz albums. Songs like “Watch What Happens” or “What Are You Doing for the Rest of Your Life?” have become Jazz Standards, interpreted by many artists. Legrand has been working with a broad variety of musicians and singers, among them Neil Diamond, Barbra Streisand, Jessye Norman, Miles Davis, Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Kiri Te Kanawa, Perry Como and Ray Charles. As a conductor, he has led notable orchestras and has recorded works by Erik Satie, Aaron Copland, George Gershwin and others at the piano.

His latest piano recordings are “Paris Jazz Piano” (2011) and “Legrand Jazz & L’Ascenseur pour l’Echafaud” (2009).

Premiere II

RENKU

A Ballet by several choreographers based on a Japanese form of poetry

Music

N.N.

Choreography

Yuka Oishi, Orkan Dann a.o.

Staging, Costume and Stage Design etc.

N.N.

Premiere A:

June 17, 2012, 6.00 p.m.

Premiere B:

June 19, 2012, 7.30 p.m.

Performance:

June 29, 2012, 7.30 p.m.

A renku is a Japanese form of poetry, comprised of linked verses by several authors. The writing of a renku is comparable to a group game: something existing is continued by someone else. A poet writes down a verse, finding out later – to his amazement and probably also to his delight – that the team-mate continues the verse in a way, the first author did not expect. Wouldn't this principle also be feasible for a ballet?

Yuka Oishi, Soloist, and Orkan Dann, member of the corps de ballet of THE HAMBURG BALLET, are already scheduled as choreographers for *Renku*. Among other occasions, they presented their choreographic works as part of the "Junge Choreografen" (Young Choreographers) at Deutsches Schauspielhaus in April 2011.

„With our second premiere, *Renku*, we present a ballet that is inspired by a traditional Japanese poetic form. A renku consists of verses composed by different authors, each continuing the previous verse in his own style and with his individual dramatic invention. The resulting ballet, although inspired by the renku form, will not necessarily be Japanese in aesthetics and expression. Even though the result is a chain of multiple styles, the renku must become coherent, an artistic entity in the end.”

John Neumeier

Revival I

Third Symphony by Gustav Mahler

Ballet by John Neumeier

Music

Gustav Mahler

Choreography, Stage and Costume Design

John Neumeier

Conductor

Markus Lehtinen

Chorus Master

Christian Günther

Alto

N.N.

Revival:

November 5, 2011, 7.30 p.m.

Performances:

November 6, 2011, 6.00 p.m.

November 10 and 18, 2011

June 21, 2012

at 7.30 p.m.

The world premiere of *Third Symphony by Gustav Mahler* by John Neumeier took place on June 14, 1975. The Fourth Movement, "Nacht" (Night), is dedicated to John Cranko and his company and was premiered in Stuttgart in July 1974, with Marcia Haydée, Richard Cragun and Egon Madsen. The ballet marks the beginning of John Neumeier's choreographic examination of the symphonic oeuvre of Gustav Mahler. John Neumeier dedicated this ballet to THE HAMBURG BALLET. Clive Barnes of the New York Post said about the choreography: "Mahler's Third Symphony is an incredible achievement, one of those masterpieces that permits a man's entire career to be reevaluated. ... This is a startling, handsomely nonconformist ballet on sempiternal architectural lines that ineffably presents Neumeier's visiting card as one of the major classic choreographers of our century. ... This ballet is a work of genius." The piece was performed in Hamburg in 2004 for the last time.

Revival II

THE LITTLE MERMAID

Ballet by John Neumeier
based on Hans Christian Andersen's tale

Music

Lera Auerbach

Choreography, Stage and Costume Design

John Neumeier

Conductor

Simon Hewett

Revival:

April 21, 2012, 7.30 p.m.

Performances:

April 25v and 28, 2012

May 9 and 12, 2012

June 22, 2012

at 7.30 p.m.

For the bicentennial of the birth of the poet Hans Christian Andersen in 2005, John Neumeier created a modern, yet timeless interpretation of *The Little Mermaid* – a dramatic tale set in two contrasting worlds: The simple, underwater life of the ocean creatures and the flamboyant lifestyle of humans. The mermaid travels through both worlds, enduring torment because of her committed love for the prince – but through her own strength in the end – transcends it. The ballet emphasises parallels between the fairy tale and Hans Christian Andersen's biography.

For THE HAMBURG BALLETT, John Neumeier created a revised Hamburg version in 2007, for which the composer Lera Auerbach also revised the score. With the new version, the company gave a very successful guest performance in Japan in 2009. The Hamburg production was lent to the San Francisco Ballet, and in February 2011 the Moscow production celebrated a highly acclaimed premiere at the Stanislavsky Theatre. *The Little Mermaid* was performed in Hamburg in 2009 for the last time.

Repertoire

SEASON 2011/2012

LADY OF THE CAMELLIAS

Ballet by John Neumeier
based on the novel of Alexandre Dumas
the Younger.

October 1, 3, 4, 19, 2011

November 1, 2011

March, 10, 14, 15, 17, 2012

June 24, 2012

ORPHEUS

Ballet by John Neumeier

October 27, 28, 2011

November 13, 2011

CHRISTMAS ORATORY

Ballet by John Neumeier

November 20, 2011

December 11, 26 (2x), 2011

January 1, 2012

THE NUTCRACKER

Ballet by John Neumeier

December 14, 15, 23 (2x), 28, 29, 2011

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Ballet by John Neumeier
after William Shakespeare

January 14, 20, 2012

May 16, 18, 19, 27, 2012

June 20, 2012

THE FLOATING WORLD

Two ballets inspired by the Japanese
by John Neumeier

Seven Haiku of the Moon

Seasons – The Colors of Time

January 16, 2012

DEATH IN VENICE

A Danse Macabre by John Neumeier
based on the Novella by Thomas Mann

March 6, 9, 2012

CHOPIN DANCES

Two Ballets by Jerome Robbins

»Dances at a Gathering«

»The Concert «

March 22, 23, 25, 31 (2x), 2012

June 30, 2012

SAINT MATTHEW PASSION

April 8, 9, 10, 2012

A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE

Ballet by John Neumeier
after Tennessee Williams

April 18, 23, 27, 2012

PURGATORIO

Ballet by John Neumeier

May 22, 24, 26, 29, 2012

June 23, 2012

GUEST DANCER:

Alina Cojocaru

Lady of the Camellias (Marguerite): October 3 and 19, November 1, 2011

Liliom (Julie): December 4, 6, 20, 2011 and January 5, 2012

Roberto Bolle

Orpheus (Orpheus): October 27 and 28, 2011

Lady of the Camellias (Armand): October 1 and 4, 2011

Festival

38TH HAMBURGER BALLETT-TAGE
JUNE 17 – JULY 1, 2012

- June 17 *Renku*
June 18 *First Steps (The School of THE HAMBURG BALLET)*
June 19 *Renku*
June 20 *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
June 21 *Third Symphony of Gustav Mahler*
June 22 *The Little Mermaid*
June 23 *Purgatorio*
June 24 *Lady of the Camellias*
June 26 Guest Performance: San Francisco Ballet
June 27 Guest Performance: San Francisco Ballet
Juni 28 *Liliom*
June 29 *Renku*
June 30 *Chopin Dances*
July 01 *Nijinsky-Gala XXXVIII*

Tours

THE HAMBURG BALLET ON TOUR (2011/2012)

Last update: April 2011 | subject to change

GÜTERSLOH, THEATER GÜTERSLOH

A Midsummer Night's Dream

September 14, 15, 2011

BADEN-BADEN, FESTSPIELHAUS

The Floating World

October 8, 9, 2011

Orpheus

October 14, 15 and 16, 2011

Ballett-Werkstatt

Oktober 9, 2011

ASIA-TOUR

January / February 2012

LEVERKUSEN, FORUM LEVERKUSEN

Saint Matthew Passion

April 3, 2012

ESSEN, PHILHARMONIE ESSEN

Ballett-Werkstatt

April 5, 2012

Saint Matthew Passion

April 6, 2012

Additional Dates

SEASON 2011/2012

Hamburger Theaternacht

September 10, 2011, 7.00 to 10.00 p.m.
at the Ballettzentrum Hamburg – John Neumeier

Ballett-Werkstätten (Ballet work-shops)

October 30, 2011
November 20, 2011, Charity work-shop
April 29, 2012
May 20, 2012
at 11.00 am

Junge Choreografen (Young Choreographers)

at Deutsches Schauspielhaus
Dates will be announced

School of THE HAMBURG BALLET

CREATIVITY WORKSHOP III

The School of THE HAMBURG BALLET at the Ernst Deutsch Theater
February 27 – March 3, 2012

FIRST STEPS

Hamburgische Staatsoper, Großes Haus
May 15, June 18, 2012

Education Projects

Education-Projects

During the past seasons, the HAMBURG BALLET has constantly expanded its youth projects. Not only do we offer family introductions to the ballets, rehearsal visits and school projects in collaboration with “TuSch” (“Theater und Schule”, an educational program in Hamburg funded by the Koerber Stiftung, see www.tusch-hamburg.de for Details). We also intensified the cooperation with universities from Hamburg and its surroundings – including the Bucerius Law School, Hamburg University and Leuphana University Lüneburg. Our goal is spark young people’s interest in dance and the HAMBURG BALLET, and we look forward to hearing from you! If you are interested in our education projects, please contact

Dr. Andrea C. Röber for college projects
040-21 11 88 16, andrea.c.roeber@hamburgballett.de

Indrani Delmaine for “TuSch”
indrani.delmaine@hamburgballett.de

Hilde Schuller for rehearsal visits
Hilde.schuller@staatsoper-hamburg.de – for further details see
www.staatsoper-hamburg.de/de/7_junge/musikkontakte/musikkontakte.php

Service

Box-office

Große Theaterstrasse 25, D-20354 Hamburg

Tel. +49 (0)40 35 68 68

Fax +49 (0)40 35 68 610

Mo. to Sa. 10.00 a. m. to 6.30 p. m.

During summer break (July 11 until August 21, 2011):

Mo. to Fri. 10.00 a. m. to 6.30 p. m., Sa. 10.00 a. m. to 2.00 p. m.

Online booking

Select and purchase tickets – easy and convenient at www.staatsoper-hamburg.de

Dates

Advance booking for performances between September 3 and October 31, 2011 starts on Monday, May 9, 2011. Tickets will also be sold during summer break. Advance booking for all other performances of 2011/12 season starts on Monday, August 22, 2011 (for subscribers only) respectively Monday, August 29, 2011 (for all other customers, also online booking and sale by private booking offices). Please note that the dates for the advance booking mentioned above do not apply to the Nijinsky-Gala and the Ballett-Werkstätten (ballet work-shops). Orders for those performances can be placed from May 9, 2011 to July 10, 2011 exclusively in written form (orders by e-mail will not be accepted) with a special order form that you can receive as a download (www.staatsoper-hamburg.de and www.hamburgballett.de) or at the box office. Please note: The number of tickets available for purchase is limited based on the high demand of tickets for those performances. Each customer can purchase a maximum of 2 tickets for the Nijinsky-Gala and 2 tickets for each Ballett-Werkstatt. Tickets for those performances will not be available for purchase through the internet, ticket agencies or on short notice. There will be a limited number of tickets available on short call 28 days prior to all other performances. The evening box-office opens 90 minutes prior to the beginning of the performance. The ticket sale for the respective performance has priority. Written ticket orders or orders via telephone have to be paid for within a deadline you will receive with our order confirmation. The quickest way to

get your tickets is to book using your credit card (MasterCard, VISA and American Express accepted). On request we will send you the tickets by post. There will be a charge of € 5 (online booking: € 2.50) for each dispatch. Tickets which have been paid for cannot be returned or subsequently reduced. A list of our general business conditions in German is available from our box-office or can be found on our homepage.

Other advance booking offices

Tickets are also available at some private booking offices in Hamburg and at Hamburg Tourismus GmbH (Hotline +49 (0)40 300 51 777; www.hamburg-tourismus.de) and at all Ticket-online booking offices and TUI-travel agencies.

Subscriptions

Information can be obtained from our subscription office:

Tel. +49 (0)40 35 68 800
Mo. to Fri. 10.00 a. m. to 6.30 p. m.

During summer break
(July 11 until August 21, 2011):
Mo. to Fri. 10.00 a. m. to 2.00 p. m.

Information online

For details on ballets, casts and dates please visit www.hamburgballett.de. If you are interested in background knowledge on the company check out THE HAMBURG BALLET Blog and our Facebook page: www.hamburgballett-blog.de and www.facebook.com/hamburgballett.

Merchandise

THE HAMBURG BALLET merchandise, including THE HAMBURG BALLET calendar, is available via the service section/shop on www.hamburgballett.de.