



..... International Press Service

Ressort: Kunst, Kultur und Musik

Triumphant Return: Iolanta at the Vienna State Opera

Vienna State Opera, 01.04.2025 [ENA]

After an astonishing 125-year absence from the repertoire, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's final opera, *Iolanta*, has returned to the stage of the Wiener Staatsoper in a production that can only be described as a revelation. Under the inspired musical direction of Tugan Sokhiev and the visionary staging of Evgeny Titov, this long-overdue revival not only does justice to Tchaikovsky's sublime score but also reaffirms the opera's deep emotional and philosophical resonance.

At the heart of this triumphant production is Sonya Yoncheva, making her Vienna State Opera debut in the title role. Her portrayal of *Iolanta* is nothing short of mesmerizing, capturing both the innocence and inner strength of the blind princess. Vocally, she is in magnificent form—her shimmering soprano floats effortlessly through Tchaikovsky's lush orchestration, exuding warmth, vulnerability, and an ever-growing sense of self-awareness. Yoncheva's ability to imbue every phrase with emotional depth makes her transformation from ignorance to enlightenment profoundly moving. Her final aria, delivered with luminous clarity and soul-stirring intensity, left the audience in awe, cementing her status as one of today's preeminent sopranos.

Yoncheva is surrounded by an exceptional ensemble, each bringing nuanced and impassioned performances to their roles. Ivo Stanchev's King René is a commanding presence, his rich bass imbued with the paternal anxiety of a ruler desperate to protect his daughter from a painful truth. Boris Pinkhasovich delivers a strikingly conflicted Robert, while Dmytro Popov's Vaudémont is a revelation—his ardent tenor soaring with passion and conviction, particularly in his duets with Yoncheva. Their chemistry is palpable, making their love story all the more compelling.

Attila Mokus as the physician Ibn-Hakia provides one of the evening's most gripping moments with his profound aria on the connection between mind, body, and healing.

Supported by a strong ensemble of secondary roles, including Daniel Jenz, Simonas Strazdas, Monika Bohinec, Maria Nazarova, and Daria Sushkova, the cast collectively elevates this production to an operatic triumph. Tugan Sokhiev's Vienna State Opera premiere at the helm of *Iolanta* proves to be an unforgettable one. From the overture's first notes, he draws a performance of extraordinary sensitivity and grandeur from the orchestra. The score's delicate interplay between darkness and light is exquisitely realized, with Sokhiev balancing moments of brooding intensity with soaring lyricism. The orchestral textures are rich

Redaktioneller Programmdienst: European News Agency

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
Email: contact@european-news-agency.com
Internet: european-news-agency.com

Haftungsausschluss:

Der Herausgeber übernimmt keine Haftung für die Richtigkeit oder Vollständigkeit der veröffentlichten Meldung, sondern stellt lediglich den Speicherplatz für die Bereitstellung und den Zugriff auf Inhalte Dritter zur Verfügung. Für den Inhalt der Meldung ist der allein jeweilige Autor verantwortlich.



..... International Press Service

and nuanced, ensuring that Tchaikovsky's harmonies shimmer with expressive clarity.

His meticulous attention to phrasing allows every instrumental and vocal line to breathe, making the opera's emotional arc all the more profound. Evgeny Titov, making his Vienna State Opera debut, approaches *Iolanta* with a strikingly modern sensibility while remaining deeply faithful to the opera's core themes. He strips away any fairytale sentimentality, instead presenting a psychological study of blindness—both literal and metaphorical. Titov's staging plays brilliantly with the concept of light and shadow, mirroring *Iolanta*'s evolving perception of the world. Rufus Didwizsus' minimalist yet evocative set design enhances this vision, with shifting panels and translucent screens creating a dreamlike, almost surreal landscape.

Annemarie Woods' costumes subtly reflect the contrast between *Iolanta*'s sheltered existence and the outside world, reinforcing the opera's central motif of awakening.

The result is an interpretation that feels profoundly relevant, challenging the audience to reconsider what it means to truly "see." Titov's direction breathes fresh life into the opera, proving that *Iolanta* is not just an exquisite work of Tchaikovsky's late career but a deeply philosophical meditation on knowledge, love, and transformation.

The return of *Iolanta* to the Wiener Staatsoper is more than just a historic moment—it is a testament to the enduring power of Tchaikovsky's genius and the ability of great artists to reimagine and revitalize operatic masterpieces. This production, led by the extraordinary Sonya Yoncheva, the masterful Tugan Sokhiev, and the visionary Evgeny Titov, stands as one of the most significant operatic revivals in recent memory. It is a must-see for both Tchaikovsky aficionados and those new to his operatic world—a performance that lingers in the mind and heart long after the final note fades.

[Bericht online lesen:](https://www.european-news-agency.de/kunst_kultur_und_musik/triumphant_return_iolanta_at_the_vienna_state_opera-91079/)

https://www.european-news-agency.de/kunst_kultur_und_musik/triumphant_return_iolanta_at_the_vienna_state_opera-91079/

Redaktion und Verantwortlichkeit:

V.i.S.d.P. und gem. § 6 MDSStV: Dr. Nadejda Komendantova

**Redaktioneller Programmdienst:
European News Agency**

Annette-Kolb-Str. 16
D-85055 Ingolstadt
Telefon: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.660
Telefax: +49 (0) 841-951. 99.661
Email: contact@european-news-agency.com
Internet: european-news-agency.com

Haftungsausschluss:

Der Herausgeber übernimmt keine Haftung für die Richtigkeit oder Vollständigkeit der veröffentlichten Meldung, sondern stellt lediglich den Speicherplatz für die Bereitstellung und den Zugriff auf Inhalte Dritter zur Verfügung. Für den Inhalt der Meldung ist der allein jeweilige Autor verantwortlich.