VLADIMIR MATORIN • Bass
Representation: **OVATION! Management**
Blanche Artis Lewis
6161 N. Hamilton • Chicago, IL 60659-4220 • 773-338-4182

BIOGRAPHY

Bass Valdimir Matorin, soloist for the Bolshoi Theater, was recently given the highest honor to be bestowed upon an artist; that of "National Artist of Russia." The owner of a strong, rich, and unique voice and a very gifted actor; Vladimir Matorin has been acclaimed internationally for roles such as Boris, Pimen, Varlaam all from **Boris Godunov**, Susanin (**Life for the Tsar**), Prince Grmin (**Eugene Onegin**), Don Basilio (**Barber of Seville**), and many others too numerous to mention.

Matorin was born in Moscow. In 1974 he graduated from the Gnessin Pedagogical Institute of Music (at present Russian Academy of Music). Upon graduation he was immediately engaged for the Moscow Stanislavsky & Nemirovich-Danchecnko Music Theater. He remained there for 15 years.

Since 1991 Matorin has been a soloist at the Bolshoi Theatre, where he performs the main bass repertoire encompassing more than 50 roles. He has performed at all the leading opera houses in the world including the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, the opera houses of Lyons & Paris in France, Teatro Zarzuela in Madrid, Teatro Felice in Venice, Grand Theater in Geneva, Switzerland, & Covent Garden in London.

Matorin recently toured New Zealand singing his signature role of Boris. His reviews were incredibly enthusiastic. Last year he toured Japan. His Wexford Festival debut was in 1993 & he was invited back in 1995.

Matorin is dedicated to Russian liturgical music and has the unique blessing of the Patriarch of Russia to perform these sacred litanies.

Mr. Matorin's most recent CD recording features songs and romances performed by Matorin and accompanied by the "Rossiyane" Orchestra, which gathers representatives from different parts of Russia: hence their original and unique manner of interpretation of songs, dances and other kind of folk music in the best traditions of peoples of Russia. "Rossiyane" is well known not only because of this but because it uses new modern soundings of folk instruments. The conductor and artistic director of the Orchestra is Honoured Artist of Russia Igor Baev.

Vladimir Matorin made his Metropolitan Opera debut in January, 2004.

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REVIEWS

2002 – 2003 Season

"The bass, Vladimir Matorin then joined the Bolshoi Chorus for a performance of the traditional Russian Orthodox setting of the First Psalm, "Blazlhen Muzh," in an arrangement by Pavel Chesnokov. Matorin has one of those elemental voices that seem to blossom from the dark, rich loam of the steppes: his burly Rasputin beard only heightened one's sense that he was imparting some mystic wisdom from the East."

"The evening closed with the great Coronation Scene from Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* with Matorin as the haunted monarch (if I were a rock critic, I'd use the word 'eponymous' right about now) . ...both defiantly extroverted (in the passages for the chorus) and achingly soul-searching (Boris). It proved a fitting cap to a brilliant and variegated program."

Washington Times (USA)

"Pimen the monk-historian, was resoundingly sung by Vladimir Matorin."

(Bastille Opera) **The New York Times** (USA)

"Vladimir Matorin (Pimen) also interpreter of the title role-making the most of his confrontation with Boris demonstrated the range of excellence available among Russian basses today."

(Bastille Opera) **Kultur Mosque** (Paris, France)

"Even more than a singer, Vladimir Matorin is a true actor . …gives this Czar a human dimension."

(Opera de Lyon) **Au Semaphor** (Trigny), (Lyons, France)

Reviews from New Zealand Opera tour of Boris Godunov

(Vladimir Matorin as Boris)

A triumph well worth the wait

"Vladimir Matorin is a towering presence. Big of physique, and with the sort of subterranean bass that Russia produces; he uses the stage as an act of possession. The great monologue in Scene five and the death of Boris are moments of transcendental theater, not easily forgotten."

The Dominion Post (Auckland, New Zealand)

Russian opera magnificently staged

"New Zealand Opera provides us with a rare opportunity to see one of the world's great operas in an awesome multimillion dollar production. In the title role, the Russian bass Vladimir Matorin proves exactly why he has won such international acclaim as Boris, with a dramatic, gloriously voiced portrayal."

Manuwatu Evening Standard

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Murder, Madness, and Mayhem

"The Boris of Vladimir Matorin towered physically and vocally. His acting is largely statuesque: an occasional embrace had to convey much, but there was nobility in his stillness and always expression and emotion in his massive voice."

The Sunday Star Times (Auckland, NZ)

Godunov more than good enough

"Just to hear Russian bass Vladimir Matorin is worth traveling to Wellington for. To be able to see him in such a superbly performed opera makes it a lifetime experience. Tall and imposing, with a magnificent voice and acting ability to match, it is not surprising to learn he has earned the title of People's Artist of Russia."

Wanganui Chronicle (Wellington, NZ)

Landmark in opera history

"Distinguished Russian bass, Vladimir Matorin, gave a gut wrenching, towering performance as the tortured Boris with depth in his sonorous singing."

Capital Times (Wellington, NZ)

Polished to Perfection

"As Boris Godunov, the bass Vladimir Matorin, provided a standout performance. His voice had a dark, steely sonority to it. He had a commanding presence. He had a relaxed acting style and displayed a strong sense of the character's optimism and despair. The presence of Boris permeates the whole opera and this, along with the menacing music, gives the production an anguished drama."

The National Business Review (Wellington, NZ)

A Quiet Gathering

"Vladimir Matorin is a colossus, with a voice as big as his frame. And what a voice-black and veiled as we expect from a Russian, but also capable of silky smoothness, flashes of brightness and constant focus and intensity. He dominates the stage physically and vocally, crumbling visibly as guilt gnaws into him."

Listener (Wellington, NZ.)

Mighty Matorin plus locals make magic

"The mighty Vladimir Matorin was Boris. The full wonder of his vocal and theatrical skill was revealed in Scene 5, where he shifted, within minutes, from solicitous father to tormented murderer. Here was dramatic truth that would have had Stanislavsky's approval, and a vocal subtlety that could have transferred to a lieder recital . ...as the great man broke apart, you could have heard the proverbial pin drop on the carpet."

New Zealand Herald