



Distinction: Oper! Award for the Salzburg Festival

Mieczysław Weinberg's **THE IDIOT**
named "BEST PRODUCTION OF 2024"



Artistic Director Markus Hinterhäuser with the Oper! Award for the "Best Production of the Year",
Photo: Simon van Rompay

(SF, 24 February 2025) **The Salzburg Festival's Artistic Director Markus Hinterhäuser** personally accepted the award at the ceremony held at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, expressing his gratitude for the distinction: "In this opera, Weinberg managed to create one of the most remarkable pieces in 20th-century opera literature. Apart from the work's importance, the distinction also underlines the excellent staging by director Krzysztof

Warlikowski and the outstanding musical achievements of the singers and Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla at the helm of the Vienna Philharmonic.”

Jury Statement

“It is a political piece, the last of seven operas by a composer who almost perished unnoticed in the maelstrom of 20th-century catastrophes, along with his oeuvre. Its subject is the impotence of a good person in a society marked by greed, nihilism and decadence. Krzysztof Warlikowski staged this parable in a shockingly dense manner, within a stage space that was horizontally mobile, perfect for simultaneous scenes. The outstanding ensemble of singers brought the action to life with breathtaking veracity; the identification of the conductor Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla with the score was compellingly poetic. Yes, this is exactly what festivals are for! To discover lost masterworks for the repertoire: for example, Mieczysław Weinberg’s *The Idiot* at the Salzburg Festival.” With this **jury statement** from the journal *OPER!*, the opera *The Idiot* won the distinction “Production of the Year”.



Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla (conductor), Krzysztof Warlikowski (director) and Bogdan Volkov (Prince Lev Nikolayevich Myshkin) at the Salzburg Festival's Press Terrace © SF/Neumayr/Leo



Mieczysław Weinberg, *The Idiot*, 2024: Vladislav Sulimsky (Parfion Semyonovich Rogoshin), Bogdan Volkov (Prince Lev Nikolayevich Myshkin), Oskar Widmer (Lebedyev's son), Iurii Samoilov (Lukyan Timofeyevich Lebedyev)



Mieczysław Weinberg, *The Idiot*, 2024: Jutta Bayer (Adelaida Yepanchina), Margarita Nekrasova (Mrs. Yepanchina), Bogdan Volkov (Prince Lev Nikolayevich Myshkin), Xenia Puskarz Thomas (Aglaiia Ivanovna Yepanchina), Pavol Breslik (Gavrila (Ganya) Ardalionovich Ivvolgin), Portrait: Ausrine Stundyte (Nastassia Filipovna Barashkova)

<https://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/fotoservice/der-idiot-2024>