



**Dr. Henrik NEUBAUER (1929 – 2024)**

Opera director, choreographer, full professor at the Academy of Music, doctor, publicist, and historian of opera and ballet Henrik Neubauer was born on April 17, 1929, in Golnik, Slovenia.

In 1953, in the class of professor Lidija Wisiakova, he graduated from the Secondary Ballet School in Ljubljana; the same year, he was promoted to the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ljubljana. In the 1959/1960 season, he was an aspirant at the choreographic faculty of the State Theater Institute in Moscow. In the 1964/1965 season, as a scholarship holder of the Ford Fund, he attended ballet training in the USA, where in 1965, he received a diploma as a teacher of Labanotation.

He was first a member and soloist of the Ljubljana Ballet (1946–1957), then an assistant at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ljubljana (1957–1961), head of ballet and choreographer of the Ljubljana Ballet (1960–1972), director and artistic director of the Ljubljana Festival (1972–1982), and artistic director of the SNG Opera and Ballet in Maribor (1984–1986). From 1989 to 2002, he lectured at the Ljubljana Academy of Music in the singing department at the opera school and later at the Ballet Teachers College in Ljubljana.

Since 1973, he has been active in the International Theater Institute, where he was President of the Slovenian Center (1992–2000), general secretary of the International Dance Committee, technical advisor to the Executive Council, and Music Theater Committee board member. He was an active member of the Dance Notation Bureau in New York. He was the President of the Community of Slovenian Concert Agencies, the President of the coordination committee of the former Yugoslav concert agencies, the President of the Cycling Association of Slovenia, a member of the terminological Commission of the Institute for the Slovenian Language of the Scientific Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, a member of the committee for the preparation of the cultural and artistic program of the Ivan Cankar Cultural Center in the founding, member of the council for music education of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, member of the program committee of the Maribor Philharmonic, President of the Association of Slovenian Ballet Artists, President of the Slovenian Chamber Music Theatre, representative of the Ljubljana Festival in the

Association of European Music Festivals and in the Committee for Non-European of arts and President and member of many other foreign and domestic organizations.

In 1970, he became an honorary doctor of the University of Dance in Paris (Université de la danse Paris), in 1964 he won the second prize at the 3rd republican amateur film festival of Slovenia and the fourth prize at the 8th amateur film festival of Yugoslavia for the genre film Na konicah prstov and the third award for the feature film Vision, in 1971 he received the Order of Labor with a Golden Wreath, in 1973 he was recognized as an artist of exceptional quality by the Commission for the Classification of Artists, in 1977 he became an honorary member of the Lidija Sotlar ballet company, at the Yugoslav Opera Biennale in 1978 he was recognized for the best direction (Carmen), and at the Yugoslav Ballet Biennale in 1981, the award for the best choreography (Romeo and Juliet), since 1983 he has been an honorary member of the ITI dance committee, in 1986, as a director together with the ensemble of Opera SNG Maribor, he received the award of the 10th Yugoslav Opera biennale for a highly creative performance of King Lear by D. Božič and the same year recognition of the Maribor Concert Branch for long-term cooperation. In 1989, he received recognition for essential works of art from the Academy of Theater, Radio, Film, and Television of the University of Ljubljana. In 2000, the Škerjančevo priznanje of the Secondary School of Music and Ballet in Ljubljana (Škerjančeva Award) and the Betetto Award as a group recognition of the contributors to the Encyclopedia of Slovenia, in 2001 recognition of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of competitions of young Slovenian musicians and ballet dancers, in 2003 he received the award of the capital city of Ljubljana. In 2009, he was awarded the Golden Order of Merit by the President of the Republic, Dr. Danilo Türk, for his outstanding work and merits in realizing the sovereignty, reputation, and progress of the Republic of Slovenia in culture.

In addition to more than 80 dance roles in ballet performances on the stage of the Ljubljana Opera, his creative oeuvre is represented in Slovenia as well as in Austria, Italy, Croatia, Serbia, Ireland, Bulgaria, Slovakia through 80 ballet choreographies to the music of foreign and Slovenian composers, 80 opera choreographies and dramatic performances, over 40 choreographies for special events, 33 opera and operetta directions and 15 French-language plays.

He wrote 30 books and over 500 articles on opera and ballet and participated in around 20 encyclopedic editions of domestic and foreign publishing houses. He was also the editor-in-chief of the theater newspaper Opera and Ballet SNG Ljubljana, a member of the editorial board of the theater newspaper Opera and Ballet SNG Maribor, participated in the editions of the Music and Ethnography Institute in Ljubljana, and edited several anthologies in the theater field.

He lectured at various universities in the USA, Finland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, France, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia. In 2001 and 2005, he was a visiting professor at the Ernst Busch School of Performing Arts in Berlin (Hochschule für Schauspielkunst Ernst Busch), and in 2004, 2008, and 2009 at the International Ballet Seminar in Wolfsegg, Austria. At the 35th World Congress of the International Theater Institute in Segovia (Spain), he was appointed an honorary member of this distinguished international organization. In November 2018, at the main event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the mentioned organization, he received a special award for his many years of dedicated work in the international arena. In 2024, he received the Prešeren Award, the highest award in Culture in Slovenia, for his life achievements.

Slovenian Centre of ITI extends heartfelt condolences to Dr. Neubauer's family and friends. We will remember his opus and energy for years to come.

On behalf of the Slovenian Centre ITI  
Tatjana Ažman, president