



**SIAS** STATE  
INSTITUTE  
FOR ART STUDIES



Dear friends!

The Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, the Bakhrushin Theatre Museum, the Bolshoi Theatre, and the State Institute for Art Studies invite you to participate in the International Research Conference

**«MARIUS PETIPA. THE BALLET EMPIRE: FROM RISE TO DECLINE»**

The conference symbolically marks the date of the conclusion of Petipa's first, one-year contract with the Directorate of the Imperial Theaters, after which his position as ballet master was made permanent. The conference has six areas of focus:

1. **AT THE SERVICE OF HIS MAJESTY** (reports covering various aspects of Marius Petipa's biography, politics, and business practices; the relationship between choreographers and the imperial and theatrical bureaucrats; daily life in the Russian Empire; the French diaspora; opportunities and restrictions for foreign subjects in the Russian Empire). Preference will be given to reports using archival sources\*.
2. **DIPLOMACY, UNIONS, AND WARS** (Petipa's works in the context of world ballet art of his time; his predecessors, his competitors and his students – Didelot, Titus, Perrot, Bournonville, Saint-Léon, Justamant, Reisinger, Hansen, Lev Ivanov, Shiryaev, Gorsky, Fokine, and others; Petipa's relations with coauthors, performers, librettists, visual artists, and theatre actors; his approach to conflict resolution). Preference will be given to reports of a comparative nature and/or privileging visual materials\*.
3. **ECONOMICS AND SOCIETY** (power and art; administrative and financial support for ballet theatre from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present as preserved in contracts and other business papers; performances costs; the public status of ballet; ballet artists and their audiences from the time of Louis XIV to the present).
4. **WRITING AND FOLKLORE** (Petipa's masterpieces in choreographic scores, productions, stories and anecdotes). Preference will be given to unknown video materials, reconstructions of Petipa's choreography in any form, as well as video and audio interviews with choreographers (classical and modern), composers, artists, and critics about Petipa. The best materials may be included in the collection of video and audio materials of the Theatre Museum\*.
5. **GEOGRAPHY AND LANGUAGES (PETIPA ON THE WORLD MAP)** (chronology and reviews of Petipa's tours as choreographer and performer; transfers of his ballets to and from Russia, Western Europe, North and South America, Australia, and other areas of the globe; adapting his choreographies to different social conditions and for different choreographic schools in different countries; the custodians and disseminators of Petipa's legacy in the USSR and the West). Preference will be given to reports including copies of posters and full texts of performance reviews).
6. **BRAND OR KITSCH?** (the reconstruction, preservation and study of classical ballet in general and of Petipa's ballets in particular; traditional approaches to the work and the potential of digital technologies).

The conference is expected to cover a broad range of issues: the contribution of Marius Petipa to the history of the world ballet and his place in modern ballet art; the role of the ballet master;



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ballet's adaptation to changing cultural conditions; the development of new styles in ballet theatre; the emergence of new theatrical directions; the birth and the evolution of ballet theatres; the most important changes in recent ballet. The conference will facilitate meetings between scholars and practitioners of modern ballet. Representatives from different disciplines (ballet experts, musicologists, theatre experts, art critics, historians, culturologists, museum experts, archivists, philosophers, etc.), the performing and the fine arts (choreographers, dancers, stage designers, etc.), writers, journalists, and students interested in ballet history are all invited to participate in the conference.

Conference working languages — Russian, English, and French.

Conference dates: 6-8 June 2018. Conference venues:

- The Bolshoi Theatre: Moscow. Teatralnaya Square, 1; «Teatralnaya» metro station;
- The Bakhrushin Theatre Museum, : Moscow, Bakhrushin Street, 31/12; «Paveletskaya» metro station;
- The State Institute for Art Studies: Moscow, Kozitsky Lane, 5; «Chekhovskaya» metro station.

**Deadline for the call for papers: 15 April 2018**

Paper duration — 15 minutes. Travel costs covers are to be cost by participants and their affiliated institutions unless otherwise proposed by the Conference Committee.

The list of papers chosen by the Conference Committee will be published on the website of the Theatre Museum on 20 April 2018.

In order to make a proposal please fill the form by the following [link](http://www.gctm.ru/en/petipa_en/)  
([http://www.gctm.ru/en/petipa\\_en/](http://www.gctm.ru/en/petipa_en/))

The conference materials will be published in the special edition in 2019.

If you have any questions, please feel free to refer to

- Research Curator of the Conference – Sergey Konaev, PhD in Art Studies  
(sergey.konayev@gmail.com).
- Curator of the Conference – Anna Kolesnikova, PhD in Sociology, Deputy General Director for Research of the Theatre Museum (+7(495)9533977, anyakolesnikova@yandex.ru).\*

*The museum can provide, upon request and agreement, electronic copies of Petipa Foundation documents needed by foreign participants for presentations that have been selected by the Conference Committee.*