



WILLKOMMEN IN BERLIN



At the Opera House in Magdeburg
From left: the ambassadors' wives Sayora Akhatova, Uzbekistan, Rita Onzhanova, Kazakhstan, Aigul Tekebaeva, Kyrgyzstan, and the WIB members Kazuko Gehrig, Inga Werdnik, Dr. Anna Klippstein, Gül Özcelik-Schindler, Katharina von Aretin

Turandot in Magdeburg

Magdeburg, capital of Saxony-Anhalt and the city of Otto (after Emperor Otto the Great and Otto von Guericke), is worth a visit for the city alone. It offers attractions such as the cathedral, monasteries and churches, the Golden Horseman, Hundertwasser's green citadel and much more.

On the first weekend in March, WIB members of the Opera, Ballet and Classical Music group had the privilege of combining a visit to Magdeburg in the winter sun with an evening at the opera. The group had the chance to see the last (and fully booked) performance of Giacomo Puccini's 'Turandot' at the Opera House. The story of the Chinese princess Turandot from a distant past is still fascinating today. Turandot refuses to fulfil her royal destiny and marry. She has forced her father to agree that she must marry the man who can answer three riddles. The stakes are high, with candidates facing beheading if they give the wrong answer. However, Prince Calaf is not deterred and is ultimately rewarded with the love of the princess.

The audience was thrilled by the sonority of the impressive soloists and orchestra, the imaginative set and the staging. The famous aria 'Nessun Dorma' was clearly the audience's favourite.

After the performance, the WIB Opera Group had organised a dinner in an Italian restaurant with the soloists and members of the orchestra. After an introduction to the dramaturgy of the piece before the performance, the exchange with the performers and the charismatic General Music Director Anna Skryleva rounded off the overwhelming impression. Turandot, in the theatre still a princess of legend with dignity and dominance, proved to be an approachable conversation partner. The participants had the opportunity to look behind the scenes of an elaborate production, and did so until late into the night. And although Magdeburg is only an hour's drive from Berlin and can also be reached directly by taking the RE1 regional train, the opportunity to stay in a comfortable hotel in the city was gladly taken up.



From left: General Music Director and conductor Anna Skryleva, soprano Ingegjerd Bagøien Moe (Turandot) and the two organisers of the WIB group, Dr. Anna Klippstein and Inga Werdnik



The Old City Hall, with the towers of St John's Church in the background



The Golden Horseman on the Old Market Square is a copy of the almost 800-year-old original, which can be seen in the Cultural History Museum in Magdeburg

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