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**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

Press Release

**Hungarian State Opera selects Genelec**

**monitors for new 5.1 studio**

**Budapest, Hungary, February 2023…** Hungary’s largest cultural development project of the decade has seen the transformation of what was once the country’s largest indoor railway complex into the Eiffel Art Studios, the [Hungarian State Opera](https://www.opera.hu/)’s new logistics and art centre. At the heart of the transformation is Eiffel Hall, a space for workshops, rehearsals and a recording studio for the [State Opera](https://www.facebook.com/Operahaz). And while the space pays tribute to both the 200-year history of Hungarian opera culture and the venue’s industrial past, it also highlights the best in modern sound technology, thanks to [Genelec](https://www.genelec.com/) monitors.

The decision to build a recording studio was an unusual one for a venue like this, but the reasoning came from the devastating effects of Covid-19 on Budapest’s recording studios. It also gave the State Opera the opportunity to create exactly the space it needed, resulting in a colossal recording complex where changes could be made from any area.

“That’s why it was a great idea to make a studio of this unprecedented size in Hungary,” explains Kondás Ferenc from the Hungarian State Opera. “We’re now able to record from each room in the studio. The studio has been designed so that you don’t have to go down to the big room for minor sound corrections. So, if a correction to a vocal or instrumental performance is needed, it’s happening right there. Or if an advertising voiceover or narration needs to be recorded, it’s also happening there – we wanted everything to be easily accessible.”

The result has seen the 5.1 recording space equipped with five [8341](https://www.genelec.com/8341a) three-way coaxial monitors and one [7370](https://www.genelec.com/7370a) subwoofer in the control room, run digitally via an [9301](https://www.genelec.com/9301a) multichannel interface. Additionally, a pair of [8040](https://www.genelec.com/8040b) two-way monitors are used with an iMac for quick recordings in the control room, while another stereo pair of 8040s are employed in the live area by the conductor and musicians when required.

[GLM calibration software](https://www.genelec.com/glm) was employed to individually optimise the 5.1 monitoring system in the Fricsay Studio for different listening positions. “We measured using GLM in three different places; in the sound engineer’s position, in the musical director’s position, and in the place where the composer or conductor would be listening,” Ferenc adds. “The conductor or composer can’t fit with the score beside the sound engineer, so they sit behind them, and that’s why this third set-up was created. In the studio we’ve created 2.0 and 5.1 settings in GLM, but for recordings and live streams we normally use the 2.0 setting.”

Building a studio of this stature in a busy city will always have its challenges, particularly when there’s a two-way tram track that runs directly outside the building. “The hardest part was finding a solution for the low frequencies, and having trams run outside puts us at a disadvantage,” explains Ferenc. “Luckily, the team at our acoustic consultants [Arató Akusztikai Kft](http://aratokft.hu/uj_web/) solved this problem by building a “box-within-a-box” system. Under the inner floating floor is a rubber layer, and the inner light structure wall is fixed to the main wall with vibration isolation elements. As a result, this building system excludes the noise of the road and trams.”

The end result has certainly created a breathtaking set up for both the install team and musicians: “Even the conductors were surprised to feel the effect of what they were doing on the podium, and they could genuinely hear the result of their baton!” says Ferenc. “The composers also heard more of their pieces than when they played the score in their mind and imagined how it was going to sound. But everybody was satisfied – one of the lead singers said that when he listened to his microphone played back, he could not only hear it perfectly, but he could also feel every vibration.”

Reflecting on the new facility, Ferenc is delighted with what can now be achieved. “The Hungarian State Opera never had a studio like this before. The musicians and the sound engineers are satisfied, with lots of recordings and streams happening since the studio was completed. The act of creating a record isn’t about compromise. It’s about artistic freedom, which represents added value in the final product.”

For more information please visit [www.genelec.com](http://www.genelec.com)

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***About Genelec***

*Since the founding of Genelec in 1978, professional audio monitoring has been at the core of the business. An unrivalled commitment to research and development has resulted in a number of industry firsts and established Genelec as the industry leader in active monitors. Over 40 years later Genelec monitoring products remain true to the original philosophy, offering reliability, neutral sound reproduction regardless of size, as well as the ability to adapt to the acoustic conditions of the listening environment. Genelec customers receive paramount support in the field, from acoustical advice and calibration services to technical service and long product life span. Buying a Genelec product is a secure long-term investment in outstanding and reliable audio monitoring.*

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