Hungarian State Opera House

The construction of the Budapest Opera House began in 1875 according to the plans of Miklós Ybl and took nine years to complete. The gala opening took place on September 27, 1884 in the presence of Franz Joseph I. Franz Erkel conducted overtures from “Hunyadi László”, an opera he himself composed, as well as the first act of Lohengrin. Gustav Mahler served as artistic director from 1888 to 1891, during which time he heralded the opera house's first golden age. Other world-famous directors at this celebrated institution have included Sergio Failoni, Otto Klemperer, János Ferencsik and, until 2010, Ádám Fischer.