

Premiere / First ever staged performance in Frankfurt
GEORGE THE DREAMER (DER TRAUMGÖRGE)
Opera in two acts and an epilogue by Alexander Zemlinsky
Text by Leo Feld
Sung in German with German and English surtitles



Conductor: Markus Poschner
Director: Tilmann Köhler
Set Designer: Karoly Risz
Costume Designer: Susanne Uhl
Choreographer: Gal Fefferman
Lighting Designer: Jan Hartmann
Chorus Master: Tilman Michael
Children's Chorus Master: Álvaro Corral Matute
Dramaturge: Zsolt Horpácsy

Görge: AJ Glueckert
Princess / Gertraud: Zuzana Marková
Grete: Magdalena Hinterdobler
Hans: Liviu Holender
Marei: Juanita Lascarro
Miller: Dietrich Volle
Pastor: Alfred Reiter
Züngle: Michael Porter
Kaspar: Iain MacNeil

Mathes: Mikołaj Trąbka
Landlady: Barbara Zechmeister
Landlord: Andrew Bidlack
A Farmer: Thomas Schobert
An Older Farmer: Lars Rößler
1st Lad: Alexey Egorov
2nd Lad: Yongchul Lim
Dream voice: Tiina Lönmark

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus, Children's Chorus and Extras; Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

The central themes in this opera, rejection and hatred of strangers, ran like a red thread through the biography of **Alexander Zemlinsky** (1871-1942) too: In 1900, in Vienna, he experienced early anti-Semitic hostility, which was also directed against artists. One of the most prominent victims was Court Opera director Gustav Mahler, who commissioned Zemlinsky to write *Traumgörge*. After Mahler was fired in 1907 the premiere was unceremoniously scrapped. The opera wasn't seen or heard for the first time until 1980, in Nürnberg, and is now being performed, on stage, for the first time in Frankfurt. Zemlinsky's fascinating, late romantic music brings some of his contemporaries to mind, but it is original and inspired.

The story: Books mean everything to the village lad Görge: He fell in love with a Princess in his dreams, but is expected to marry down-to-earth Grete. Görge, who realises he's never going to be accepted in village society, runs away from his wedding, wanting to make his dream of life come true. His plan fails: He ends up as a drinker in another village three years later. A speaker is needed to organise an uprising. The farmers propose Görge, as long as he severs contact with Gertraud, who's known in the village as a witch. When he refuses to leave her the mob make it clear to both of them that there's no place for dreams in their world. But perhaps elsewhere?

Munich born **Markus Poschner** made his debut at Oper Frankfurt in 2016, with a staged Handel's *Messiah*. A year later he enjoyed great success with public and press when he became Chief Conductor of the Bruckner Orchestra in Linz. He opened the 2022 and 2023 Bayreuth Festivals with *Tristan und Isolde* and takes up the post of Chief Conductor of the Basel Symphony Orchestra in 2025/26. **Tilmann Köhler**, who started out directing plays, is a popular guest in Frankfurt, where his productions of Handel's *Teseo*, *Radamisto* and *Xerxes*, Rossini's *Bianca e Falliero*, Frank Martin's *Le vin herbé* and Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* are being followed by this new Zemlinsky's *Traumgörge*. Led by **AJ Glueckert** (Görge), nearly all the other roles are being sung by Members of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble, including **Magdalena Hinterdobler** (Grete) and **Liviu Holender** (Hans). The Czech coloratura soprano **Zuzana Marková** (Princess / Gertraud) appeared for the first time in Frankfurt in 2018/19, as Elvira in Bellini's *I puritani*, returning in 2021/22 for Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto*. One of her best roles is Violetta (*La Traviata*), which this young artist has sung at places including the Berlin Staatsoper Unter den Linden, the Opéra National de Paris, the Arena di Verona, in Florence and Marseille. Future plans include Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice, directed by Damiano Michieletto.

Premiere / First ever staged performance in Frankfurt: Sunday February 25th 2024, at 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: February 29th, March 3rd (15.30hrs; with free childminding for children aged between 3 and 9), 9th, 13th, 16th, 23rd, 31st (18hrs) 2024
Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19hrs

Tickets cost: € 16 to € 190 (with a 12.5% pre-booking fee when not purchased direct from the theatre)

Tickets can be obtained from the usual outlets, by telephone +49 (0)69 – 212 49 49 4 or online www.oper-frankfurt.de.

We do hope you might be able to publish this event. For further information, ordering photographs and reserving press tickets please contact Holger Engelhardt (Leitung Pressereferat) on +49 (0)69 – 212 46 727. His fax number is +49 (0)69 – 212 37 164 or you can email him on holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de.