

Premiere

## TANNHÄUSER

Romantic Opera in three acts by Richard Wagner

Libretto by the composer

Sung in German with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Thomas Guggeis

Director: Matthew Wild

Set Designer: Herbert Murauer

Costume Designer: Raphaela Rose

Choreography: Louisa Talbot

Video: Clemens Walter

Lighting Designer: Jan Hartmann

Chorus Master: Tilman Michael

Dramaturge: Maximilian Enderle

Tannhäuser: Marco Jentzsch

Elisabeth: Christina Nilsson

Venus: Dshamilja Kaiser

Wolfram von Eschenbach: Domen Križaj

Hermann, Landgraf von Thüringen: Andreas Bauer Kanabas

Walther von der Vogelweide: Magnus Dietrich

Biterolf: Erik van Heyningen

Heinrich der Schreiber: Michael Porter

Reinmar von Zweter: Magnús Baldvinsson

Young shepherd: Karolina Bengtsson and others

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus and Extras; Frankfurt Opern und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

*Tannhäuser*, the fifth opera by **Richard Wagner** (1813-1883), is regarded as an important milestone in his development as numbered sections, still used in *The Flying Dutchman*, were dropped in favour of through-composed music fused with the text in each scene. He drew on literature from the world of mythology and romanticism about Tannhäuser, focussing on the conflict between sensuous and spiritual love, from which he filtered out conflicting views on artists, something which mattered to him. The World Premiere took place at the Royal Court Opera in Dresden, but it only became a hit with audiences after revisions and adaptations were made. This New Production uses the 1875 Vienna edition, which incorporates changes from the 1861 Paris edition: the opening scene between Tannhäuser and Venus is expanded to include an orgiastic bacchanal, audibly influenced by the score for *Tristan*, which was completed not long before. The last *Tannhäuser* in Frankfurt opened in 2007, directed by Vera Nemirova.

Minnesänger Tannhäuser discovered the sensuous side to love with the Goddess Venus. Her antithesis symbolised for him by the spiritual purity of Elisabeth – Landgraf Hermann's niece. His artist friends turn on him when he dedicates his entry at a singing contest to physical sensual pleasure. He made a pilgrimage to Rome to atone for his sins, but the Pope wouldn't pardon him. A return to life as it once was is impossible for Tannhäuser and Elisabeth.

The music's led by Frankfurt's General Music Director **Thomas Guggeis**. It's directed by South African **Matthew Wild**, whose recent productions have included *Rent* at the Theater in St. Gallen and Humperdinck's *Königskinder* at the Tirol Festival in Erl. The title role is sung by **Marco Jentzsch**, appearing in Frankfurt for the first time. He recently performed in places including Wiesbaden, Cologne, Berlin (Staatsoper), Amsterdam and Milan, singing roles such as Tristan, Stolzing, Parsifal, Siegfried, Loge, Florestan and Peter Grimes. Swedish soprano **Christina Nilsson** (Elisabeth) is back in Frankfurt, where she appeared for the first time in 2018, singing the title role in Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Recent engagements have included Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*) at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, Chrysothemis (*Elektra*) at the Kungliga Operan in Stockholm and Aida at the Deutsche Oper Berlin. **Domen Križaj** (Wolfram), a Member of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble since 2020/21, sang Rodrigo in Verdi's *Don Carlo* and Almoviva in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* for the company this season. This Slovenian baritone can be heard here again soon as Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*. Mezzo-soprano **Dshamilja Kaiser** (Venus) was also in Frankfurt earlier this season – singing Eboli in *Don Carlo*. She was a Member of the Ensemble in Graz from 2009 to 2017 before moving to Theater Bonn. Other engagements have taken her to the Volksoper in Vienna, the State Opera in Prague, Norske Opera & Ballet and the Erl, in Tirol, and Bregenz festivals. Led by **Andreas Bauer Kanabas** (Landgraf Hermann) all the other roles are sung by **Members of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble**.

**Premiere:** Sunday April 28 2024, at 17hrs in the Opera House

**Further performances:** May 1st, 5th (15.30hrs), 11th, 20th, 30th, June 2nd (15.30hrs) 2024

Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 5pm

**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](http://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](mailto:holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de).