

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt
BIANCA E FALLIERO
 Melodrama in two acts by Gioachino Rossini
 Text by Felice Romani after Antoine Vincent Arnault
 Sung in Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Giuliano Carella
 Director: Tilmann Köhler
 Set Designer: Karoly Risz
 Costume Designer: Susanne Uhl
 Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein
 Video: Bibi Abel
 Chorus Master: Tilman Michael
 Dramaturge: Zsolt Horpácsy

Bianca: Heather Philipps
 Falliero: Beth Taylor / Maria Ostroukhova (March 11th, 17th, 19th, 26th 2022)
 Contareno: Theo Lebow
 Capellio: Kihwan Sim
 Doge of Venice: Božidar Smiljanić
 A Chancellor / Officer / Bailiff: Carlos Andrés Cárdenas

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus
 Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Oper Frankfurt intended that *Bianca e Falliero* complete a trilogy, following on from *Otello* and *La gazzetta*, of works by **Gioachino Rossini** (1792-1868) in 2019/20. Corona put paid to that but the production can be seen for the first time now. After the wildly acclaimed World Premiere of *La gazza ladra* at La Scala Milan in 1817 Rossini was commissioned to write another opera for a princely fee, even in those days. Unfortunately the hoped for success of *Bianca e Falliero*, when it was first performed on December 26th 1819, failed to materialise, a reason the work, in which Rossini again used melodies from other operas, is seldom performed and eventually faded into obscurity. Another reason was probably the enormous demands made on the singers. The composer used virtuoso coloraturas for dramatic effect, not mere vocal acrobatics. There was a highly acclaimed production in Pesaro in 1986 with Katia Ricciarelli and Marilyn Horne; but still the opera never managed to find a foothold in theatres planning so, unsurprisingly, this is a first in Frankfurt.

The story: The families of two Venetian senators Capellio and Contareno have been arguing for years. A marriage between Capellio and Contareno's daughter Bianca is to put an end to this. Although the young woman is in love with General Falliero she gives in to her father's insistence and consents. When Falliero finds out about this he persuades his beloved to elope with him. But their plan is thwarted and the young man is to stand trial. Contareno intends to use this chance to get Falliero out of the way, and signs his death sentence, which Capellio refuses to do. Moved by Bianca's testimony, he wants to help her find happiness. Contareno eventually withdraws his objections.

The production is lead by the Italian conductor **Giuliano Carella**, who has enjoyed close connections to Oper Frankfurt for many years, returning most recently for concert performances of Donizetti's *Roberto Devereux* in 2017/18. Other places where he regularly works include the Vienna, Berlin and Munich state operas and in Stuttgart, where he is conducting Puccini's *Tosca* at the moment. **Tilmann Köhler**, who comes from the world of dramatics, is another welcome guest in Frankfurt, where he has directed baroque and other operas. The American soprano **Heather Phillips** (Bianca) is making her European debut, which Corona put paid to her doing in 2019/20 in this opera. **Beth Taylor** (Falliero) recently made her debut at Oper Frankfurt singing Dardano in Handel's *Amadigi* in the Bockenheimer Depot. Her Russian colleague **Maria Ostroukhova**, making her house and role debut, takes over the role of Falliero from this Scottish mezzo-soprano for the last four performances. The other roles are sung by Ensemble Members **Theo Lebow** (Contareno), **Kihwan Sim** (Capellio) and **Božidar Smiljanić** (Doge of Venice) and Opera Studio Member **Carlos Andrés Cárdenas**, in several small roles.

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt: Sunday February 20th 2022, at 18.00hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: February 25th, 27th (18.00hrs), March 3rd, 5th, 11th, 17th, 19th, 26th 2022
 Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19.00hrs

Tickets cost: € 15 to € 182 (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.