

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt
BLUTHOCHZEIT (BLOOD WEDDING)
 Lyric tragedy in two acts by Wolfgang Fortner
 Text by Federico García Lorca
 German translation by Enrique Beck
 Sung in German with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Duncan Ward
 Director: Àlex Ollé
 Co-Director: Sandra Pocceschi
 Set Designer: Alfons Flores
 Costume Designer: Lluc Castells
 Lighting Designer: Olaf Winter
 Chorus Master: Àlvaro Corral Matute
 Dramaturge: Zsolt Horpácsy

Mother: Claudia Mahnke	Maid: Karolina Makuła
Bride: Magdalena Hinterdobler	Neighbour: Barbara Zechmeister
Bridegroom: Christian Clauß	Young Girl: Karolina Bengtsson
Death / Beggarwoman: Daniela Ziegler	Bride's Father: Dietrich Volle
Leonardo: Mikołaj Trąbka	Moon: AJ Glueckert
Leonardo's Wife: Zanda Švēde	Child: Alina Avagyan
Mother-in-Law: Annette Schönmüller	and others

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

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Wolfgang Fortner's (1907–1987) *Blood Wedding* (*Bluthochzeit*) is remarkable for its harrowing dramatic intensity and uncompromising modernity. He was already regarded as one of the leading personalities on the European music scene when he completed his first opera in 1957. The libretto is based on the Spanish poet Federico García Lorca's play. There were 22 new productions of the work during Fortner's lifetime, making it one of the most successful post-war German operas. Fortner was also a very influential teacher, inspiring a generation of composers including Hans Werner Henze. But his biography reveals a darker side too, including his membership of the NSDAP and work on Nazi propaganda.

The plot: Two families in a Spanish village have been at war for generations. A wedding's being planned. The bridegroom's mother, whose husband and older son were killed in a fight with the enemy, worries that her younger son might meet the same fate. Worries too that this wedding might make the feud between the families flare up again. The bride's still in love with her former fiancé Leonardo, a member of the enemy clan. He abducts her during the wedding reception. They escape into the woods, but their pursuers catch up with them. Blood is avenged twice: The bridegroom and Leonardo kill each other.

This first ever performance in Frankfurt is directed by **Àlex Ollé**, back in Frankfurt where he directed a Debussy *La Damoiselle élue* / Honegger *Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher* double bill and Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*. It's led by **Duncan Ward**, regarded as one of the most versatile conductors of his generation, who conducted a Museumskonzert with the Frankfurt Opern and Museumsorchester last season. He works regularly with musicians including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and Gürzenich Orchestra in Cologne, and is Chief Conductor of Philzuid, a south Netherlands philharmonic orchestra. The mother is Kammersängerin **Claudia Mahnke**, who recently sang in a new *Boris Godunov* and revival of *Tristan und Isolde* in Frankfurt and can be heard later this season at places including the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin. **Magdalena Hinterdobler** (the Bride), who enjoyed a triumph with Ellen Orford (role debut) in *Peter Grimes* in Frankfurt, and Tosca at Finnish National Opera in Helsinki earlier this season, recently sang Senta (role debut) in Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer* at the Landestheater in Salzburg. The actors **Christian Clauß** (Bridegroom) and **Daniela Ziegler** (Death / Beggarwoman) are famous for their performances on stage and screen. The other roles are cast predominately from **Members of the Ensemble**.

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt: Sunday May 10th 2026, at 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: May 13th, 15th, 24th (18hrs), 31st, June 6th, 15th 2026
 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.