

Concert

CHAPLIN OPERAS

Live music for three Charlie Chaplin silent movies,
composed by Benedict Mason (*1954)

Conductor: Franck Ollu

Eva Resch (soprano)

Holger Falk (baritone)

Ensemble Modern

Oper Frankfurt is sorry that the world premiere of **Hauke Berheide** and **Amy Stebbins'** opera *The People Out There* on December 22nd 2021 in the Bockenheimer Depot had to be postponed. Corona imposed restrictions in recent months meant that important musical experimental phases could not take place, which prevented the composition from being completed. Oper Frankfurt hopes to reschedule it in a later season.

Some of the scheduled performances of *The People Out There* have been replaced by further performances of a new production, and Frankfurt first, of *Amadigi* by **George Frideric Handel** (1685-1759) on December 8th, 10th, 13th, 15th and 16th 2021. The cast remains almost unchanged except the role of Oriana will now be sung by **Elizabeth Sutphen** instead of **Kateryna Kasper**.

The rest of the performances are being replaced by the *Chaplin Operas* (1989) by the English composer **Benedict Mason** (*1954), performed by the **Ensemble Modern**, who were to have played for the world premiere, conducted by **Franck Ollu**, with soloists **Eva Resch** (soprano) and **Holger Falk** (baritone).

Who doesn't know and love the wonderful **Charlie Chaplin** silent movies *Easy Street* (US, 1917), *The Immigrant* (US, 1917) or *The Adventurer* (US, 1917)? This time without the original accompanying music but Benedict Mason's live *Chaplin Operas*, which the Ensemble Modern performed at the world premiere on April 2nd 1989 in the Alte Oper Frankfurt a few days before Chaplin's 100th birthday. The *Chaplin Operas* are regarded as milestones in the history of new music for silent movies, which were performed in Dresden, Cologne, Perm, Baden-Baden, Amsterdam, Essen, Salzburg and Strasbourg after the world premiere in Frankfurt.

"While making experimental films about film and music I explored possibilities for a new aesthetic in film and music. The *Chaplin Operas* scores are, in a sense, 'invisible' or inverted operas, with a lavish and layered subplot provided by singers. One could describe this new genre as 'Semi Opera Filmspiel'", said Benedict Mason about his work.

Performances: December 27th, 28th, 30th, 31st 2021

All these performances begin at 19.30hrs

Tickets cost: € 20 to € 30 (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