

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt
THE TRIUMPH OF TIME AND ENLIGHTENMENT
 Oratorio in two parts by George Frideric Handel
 Libretto by Cardinal Benedetto Pamphilj
 Sung in Italian with German surtitles

Conductor: Simone Di Felice
 Director: Katharina Kastening
 Set and Costume Designer: Ashley Martin-Davis
 Video: Tal Rosner
 Lighting Designer: Jan Hartmann
 Dramaturge: Mareike Wink

Bellezza: Monika Buczkowska-Ward
 Piacere: Younji Yi
 Disinganno: Katharina Magiera
 Tempo: Michael Porter

Oper Frankfurt's Extras
 Frankfurt Opern and Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

George Frideric Handel composed his first oratorio, *Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno*, in Italy in 1707. The work, being performed in Frankfurt, in the Bockenheimer Depot, for the first time nearly 300 years after it was written, marked a milestone in Handel's output. The young composer's score reveals seemingly boundless musical imagination, from virtuosic arias to deeply reflective moments. Handel used arias from this early work – including the well-known „Lascia la spina“ – in later operas for London, including *Rinaldo*. The music is profoundly psychological, lending the abstract allegorical characters real human profiles.

The librettist **Kardinal Benedetto Pamphilj** turned the plot into a philosophical dispute between allegorical powers. Beauty (Bellezza) is seduced by Pleasure (Piacere) into giving in entirely to fleeting enjoyment, throwing transience to the wind. Time (Tempo) and Enlightenment (Disinganno) appear as adversaries to Pleasure: Holding up a mirror to Bellezza, warning her that aging and death are unavoidable.

Simone Di Felice leads the first ever performances of Handel's Oratorio in the Bockenheimer Depot in Frankfurt. A Kapellmeister at Oper Frankfurt since 2017/18, he conducted performances of *Manon Lescaut*, *Turandot*, and Mozart's *Così fan tutte* here this season. It's directed by **Katharina Kastening**. Born in London, she worked on this season's new production of *Boris Godunov* with Keith Warner, with whom she's collaborated for many years. She was a director's assistant in Frankfurt until 2023. She recently directed *Un ballo in maschera* in Erfurt and *Thumbprint* at Oper Wuppertal. Other projects have taken her to London, Vienna, Tokyo and Seoul. Her staging of Ignacy Jan Paderewski's opera *Manru* won her a FAUST Perspektiv Prize and the Grand Prix from the French Association of Theatre, Music and Dance Critics. Nearly all the singers are Members of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble. **Monika Buczkowska-Ward**, who joined in 2020/21, sings Bellezza. Roles for the company have included Sifare (*Mitridate, re di Ponto*), Alcina, Lady Harriet Durham (*Martha*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), Helena (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Livia (*L'italiana in Londra*), Dorinda (*Orlando*), Eudoxie (*La Juive*) and Gretel. Piacere is sung by **Younji Yi**, a Member of the Opera Studio. This Korean soprano studied at Korea's National University of Arts and the Sydney Conservatory of Music. This season she sang Ismene in a new production of *Mitridate, re di Ponto* and Yvette in Weinberg's *The (female) Passenger*. **Katharina Magiera** and **Michael Porter** complete the cast as Disinganno and Tempo. Magiera sang Auntie (*Peter Grimes*) and repeated her portrayal of Lisa (*The (female) Passenger*) earlier this season, with Porter adding new roles to his repertoire: Falsacappa (*The Bandits*), Enea (in a new Steffani *Amor vien dal destino*) and Pong (*Turandot*).

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt: Saturday June 13rd 2026, at 19hrs in the Bockenheimer Depot

Further performances: June 15th, 17th, 18th, 20th, 22nd, 24th 2026

All performances begin at 19hrs.

Tickets cost: € 20 to € 80 (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.