

Premiere

DER FERNE KLANG (THE DISTANT SOUND)

Opera in three acts by Franz Schreker

Libretto by the composer

Sung in German with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Sebastian Weigle / Florian Erdl (May 11th 2019)

Director: Damiano Michieletto

Set Designer: Paolo Fantin

Costume Designer: Klaus Bruns

Lighting Designer: Alessandro Carletti

Video: Roland Horvath, Carmen Zimmermann

Chorus Master: Tilman Michael

Dramaturge: Norbert Abels

Grete Graumann: Jennifer Holloway

Fritz: Ian Koziara

Landlord of the „Swan“: Anthony Robin Schneider

A slapstick Actor: Iurii Samoilov

Old Graumann / 2nd Chorister: Magnús Baldvinsson

His wife: Barbara Zechmeister

Dr. Vigelius: Dietrich Volle

An Old Woman: Nadine Secunde

Mizi: Julia Dawson

Milli / Barmaid: Bianca Andrew

Mary: Julia Moorman

Spanish Woman: Kelsey Lauritano

The Graf: Gordon Bintner

The Baron: Iain MacNeil

Chevalier / 1st Chorister: Theo Lebow

Rudolf: Sebastian Geyer

A Dubious Individual: Hans-Jürgen Lazar

Policeman / Servant: Anatolii Suprun

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

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

The first performance of *Der ferne Klang* by **Franz Schreker** (1878-1934) took place at Oper Frankfurt on August 18th 1912. Schreker began composing his first full length opera in 1901, after writing the libretto in a matter of weeks. Now this once deemed unstageable work, which brought Schreker immediate worldwide fame, is being performed again by its World Premiere opera company for the first time since 1945. Nearly half of this Austrian composer's operas, he wrote the librettos for all but one, were performed for the first time, or first time in Germany, in Frankfurt.

The story: The young composer Fritz leaves his secret fiancé Grete to go in search of a „distant sound“ that seems to promise fulfilment. Grete, desolate, follows him but cannot find him, and contemplates suicide. Ten years later, a night spent with her is the first prize in a poetry competition Grete is holding in a demimonde establishment in Venice. Fritz, who never found the „distant sound“, turns up by chance and is declared the winner. When he realises what Grete now is, he leaves her a second time. She then followed a count, who left her after a few years – and now works as a prostitute. Fritz' much looked forward to new opera, „The Harp“, is performed for the first time; with Grete in the audience. It is a flop, and the despairing composer regrets having treated Grete so badly. When they meet again their happiness is only short lived: dying in his beloved's arms, the exhausted man thinks he can hear the elusive sound more intensely than ever.

The work is lead by General Music Director **Sebastian Weigle**, his second New Production in the house in the 2018/19 season. **Damiano Michieletto** is making his debut in Frankfurt, where he returns next season. This Italian director recently staged Verdi's *Macbeth* at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice. Many Members of the Cast are making their house debuts: The American (mezzo-)soprano **Jennifer Holloway** (Grete) recently sang Sieglinde in Wagner's *Die Walküre* at the Staatsoper in Hamburg, a role she sings soon at Theater Augsburg. The Chicago born tenor **Ian Koziara** (Fritz) is a Member of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. The bass **Anthony Robin Schneider** (Landlord) has New Zealand and Austrian roots. He was recently heard in Berlioz' *Les Troyens* at the Vienna State Opera. And Oper Frankfurt welcomes back the internationally sought-after American soprano **Nadine Secunde** (An Old Woman), who sang Kostelnicka in Janáček's *Jenufa* here in 2007. The other roles are being sung by **Members of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble and Opera Studio**.

Premiere: Sunday March 31st 2019, at 18.00hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: April 6th, 13th, 19th (18.00hrs), 26th, 28th (15.30hrs; with free child minding for those aged between 3 and 9), May 4th, 11th 2019
Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19.30hrs

Tickets cost: € 15 to € 165 (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