

Premiere

**DOKTOR UND APOTHEKER
(DOCTOR AND PHARMACIST)**

Singspiel in two acts by Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf

Libretto by Johann Gottlieb Stephanie d.J.

Sung in German with German surtitles

Conductor: Alden Gatt / Lukas Rommelspacher (March 21st, 23rd 2025)

Director: Ute M. Engelhardt

Set and Costume Designer: Kaspar Glarner

Lighting Designer: Jan Hartmann

Dramaturge: Deborah Einspieler

Stössel, the Pharmacist: Božidar Smiljanić

Claudia, the Pharmacist's Wife: Kelsey Lauritano

Leonore: Elizabeth Reiter

Rosalie: Lubov Karetnikova

Captain Sturmwald: Peter Marsh

Doctor Krautmann: Thomas Faulkner

Gotthold: Michel Porter

Sichel: Andrew Bidlack

Police Commissioner: Sakhiwe Mkosana

Frankfurt Opern and Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Almost entirely forgotten today, **Carl Ditters von Dittersdorf** (1739-1799) composed *Doktor und Apotheker* (1786), an opera which was more successful than *Entführung aus dem Serail* or *Le nozze di Figaro* during Mozart's lifetime. This outstanding violinist and lauded composer, sponsored by Fürst Friedrich Wilhelm Prinz von Sachsen, joined the Staatskapelle in Vienna in 1761, got to know his older colleague Christoph Willibald Gluck and travelled around Italy with him. Ditters von Dittersdorf – unlike Mozart – was employed by the nobility all his working life. He composed quickly and copiously, leaving behind c. 120 symphonies, 40 Singspiels and operas and a well-known double bass concerto. Music he wrote in Vienna brings melodies by Mozart and Gluck to mind. His characters seem more "stereotype" than "realistic". Reminiscent of the complications, disguises and traditions in Italian opera buffa and Commedia dell'arte, as in the line-up in *Doktor und Apotheker*, the most successful Viennese opera of its time. Gotthold and Leonore are the "serious" and Sichel and Rosalie the "comic" lovers on stage, joined by Sturmwald, a well-off old gent, willing to marry a young bride for a small fortune, and two fathers, who are deadly enemies. Enough ingredients for a box-office hit that filled theatres all over Europe back then.

The action: Pharmacist Stössel and his wife Claudia want to marry their daughter off to wealthy amputee, Captain Sturmwald. But Leonore loves Gotthold, the doctor's son. Stössel blows his top when he finds out: the wedding's taking place the next day! Rosalie, the pharmacist's niece, persuades her darling Sichel to "abduct" the girl. A dizzy-making game of mistaken identities unfolds, with a happy end.

The conductor of this New Production is Kapellmeister **Alden Gatt**, with soloists' coach **Lukas Rommelspacher** conducting the last two performances. Director **Ute M. Engelhardt** was awarded the Götz Friedrich Prize for Janáček's *Cunning Little Vixen* at Oper Frankfurt in 2016. Led by **Božidar Smiljanić** (Pharmacist Stössel) and **Thomas Faulkner** (Doctor Krautmann) nearly all the roles are sung by **Members of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble and Opera Studio**.

Premiere: Saturday March 8th 2025, at 19hrs in the Bockenheimer Depot

Further performances: March 10th, 13th, 15th, 19th, 21st, 23rd 2025

Unless otherwise stated, 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.