

Premiere

I PURITANI

Opera seria in three acts by Vincenzo Bellini

Libretto by Carlo Pepoli

Sung in Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Tito Ceccherini

Director: Vincent Boussard

Set Designer: Johannes Leiacker

Costume Designer: Christian Lacroix

Video: Isabel Robson

Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein

Chorus Master: Tilman Michael

Dramaturge: Zsolt Horpácsy

Elvira: Brenda Rae / Zuzana Marková (January 2019)

Lord Arturo Talbo: John Osborn

Sir Riccardo Forth: Iurii Samoilov

Lord Gualtiero Valton: Thomas Faulkner

Sir Giorgio: Kihwan Sim

Sir Bruno Roberton: Michael Porter

Enrichetta di Francia: Bianca Andrew / Kelsey Lauritano (December 8th, 14th, 16th 2018)

A woman: Sofia Pintzou

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus; Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester

A co-production with the Opéra Royal de Wallonie, Liège

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

The opera seria *I puritani* by **Vincenzo Bellini** (1801-1835), one of the leading bel canto composers, was performed for the first time on January 24 1835 in the Théâtre Italien in Paris, in the edition written for it. The last masterpiece by this composer was performed for the first time in Italy at La Scala Milan that same year, not long before the composer died. After an argument between Bellini and Felice Romani, the librettist for seven of his nine operas, the less experienced Carlo Pepoli completed the texts, to make Bellini's own views on how it should be shaped possible. Bellini's meticulous orchestration of his almost endless arcs of melodies and use of dramatic motifs made up for the deficient, barely credible story line.

Elvira, daughter of a puritan governor Lord Gualtiero Valton, is about to marry Lord Arturo Talbo, a follower of the almost crushed Stuarts. The governor cannot lead his daughter to the altar himself because he has to escort a prisoner of the state before parliament: Enrichetta, the executed Stuart King Charles I's widow. His political convictions make it possible for Arturo to help his Queen escape from the fortress. Elvira, believing her beloved is unfaithful, loses her mind ...

The production is led by the Italian conductor **Tito Ceccherini**, back in Frankfurt where he conducted the new production of Janáček's *Aus einem Totenhaus / From the House of the Dead* in 2017/18. He can now display another facet to his talents with a main work from Italian bel canto opera. The Frenchman **Vincent Boussard**, following on from Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur* (2011/12) and Gluck's *Ezio* (2013/14), is back in Frankfurt to direct and the costumes are designed once again by **Christian Lacroix**, who made a name for himself as a fashion designer earlier on in his career. The American soprano **Brenda Rae** (Elvira) was a Member of the Ensemble, and great favourite with the audience, from 2008 to 2017. Her most recent role for the company among others was Amina in Bellini's *La sonnambula*. Recent engagements have included Zerbinetta in Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos* at the Berlin and Munich state operas. In January the role of Elvira will be sung by the Czech soprano **Zuzana Marková**, making her debut in Frankfurt, who will also sing it when the production is performed with the co-production partner, the Opéra Royal de Wallonie in Liège. The American tenor **John Osborn** (Arturo) made his debut in Frankfurt in 2013/14, with the title role in Massenet's *Werther*. Recently he sang at the Theater an der Wien Arnold in Rossini's *Guillaume Tell*, a role he portrayed at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 2016. The other roles are sung by Ensemble / Opera Studio Members **Iurii Samoilov** (Sir Riccardo Forth), **Thomas Faulkner** (Lord Gualtiero Valton), **Kihwan Sim** (Sir Giorgio), **Michael Porter** (Sir Bruno Roberton) and **Bianca Andrew**, alternating with **Kelsey Lauritano** as Enrichetta di Francia.

Premiere: Sunday December 2nd 2018, at 18.00hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: December 6th, 8th, 14th, 16th (18.00hrs), 21st, 26th (18.00hrs), 28th 2018,
January 4th, 12th, 18th 2019

Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19.00hrs

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.

I 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