

Premiere / First ever performances in Frankfurt / Concert Presentations

**IL CORSARO (THE CORSAIR)**

Melodramma tragico in three acts by Giuseppe Verdi

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

based on Lord Byron's poem *The Corsair* (1814)

Sung in Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Francesco Lanzillotta

Chorus Master: Tilman Michael

Corrado: Mario Chang

Medora: Dorothea Röschmann

Gulnara: Roberta Mantegna

Seid: Željko Lučić

Giovanni: Brandon Cedel

Selimo: Michael McCown

A Eunuch: Jaeil Kim

A Slave: Isaac Lee

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus

Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester

Oper Frankfurt continues its series of early and middle period operas by **Giuseppe Verdi** (1813-1901) in concert with *Il corsaro* (*The Corsair*). The star-studded World Premiere of his second opera based on works by Lord Byron took place on October 25 1848 in the Teatro Grande in Trieste. To the annoyance of the audience the composer was ill, and did not attend – maybe as a result of the tiresomely long coming into being of a work that was originally commissioned for London. The piece really only made progress on the insistence of Verdi's publisher Francesco Lucca and librettist Francesco Maria Piave, who based it on a translation by Giuseppe Nicolini of Lord Byron's poem titled *The Corsair*.

The story: At home on a rocky island in the Aegean, the pirate Corrado seizes a chance to attack the enemy, the Turks. He leaves his beloved Medora at home and carries out the deed, with the help of a trick, in the port of Coroni. During the action the pascha Seid's harem, home to Gulnara, the pascha's favourite slave, whose love she does not return, is set on fire. Corrado rescues the women and is imprisoned by Seid. Gulnara, now in love with her saviour, begs that he be pardoned. But the pirate must be executed. When Seid, in a jealous rage, threatens Gulnara, she decides to free Corrado. She stabs the pascha and flees with the man she adores to his island home. Medora, thinking her beloved will never return, has taken poison and dies in Corrado's arms. He throws himself into the raging sea.

**Francesco Lanzillotta** was named Music Director of the Macerata Opera Festival in 2017, where he has just been conducting Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*. Engagements this season include performances at the Deutsche Oper Berlin and the houses in Dresden, Zürich, Naples and Venice. Guatemala born **Mario Chang** (Corrado) was a Member of the Ensemble at Oper Frankfurt until the 2017/18 season. He sang Edgardo in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in the spring of 2018. The Serbian baritone **Željko Lučić** (Seid) was the favourite Member of the Ensemble in Frankfurt from 1998 to 2008, when his world career really took off with invitations to leading opera houses around the world. **Dorothea Röschmann** (Medora) has enjoyed a long and happy relationship with the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin, who made her a Kammersängerin. She appears regularly at La Scala Milan and the Dresden, Munich and Vienna state operas. She appeared in Frankfurt for the first time in 2017/18, in recital. Making her debut in Frankfurt: **Roberta Mantegna** (Gulnara), who recently sang Imogene in Bellini's *Il pirata* at La Scala Milan and is a regular guest at houses including those in Rome, Palermo and Venice. Ensemble Members **Brandon Cedel** (Giovanni), who sings Masetto in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in 2019, and **Michael McCown** (Selimo) are joined by **Jaeil Kim** (A Eunuch) from the Opera Studio and **Isaac Lee** (A Slave), a Guest Artist.

**Performances:** Wednesday November 7th 2018, and

Friday November 9th 2018, which begin at 19.00hrs in the Opera House

**Tickets cost:** € 17 to € 135 (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](http://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](mailto:holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de)