

Premiere / World Premiere / In concert

INFERNO

Opera by Lucia Ronchetti (*1963)

Text by Lucia Ronchetti based on Dante Alighieri, with an epilogue by Tiziano Scarpa

Commissioned by Oper and Schauspiel Frankfurt

Performed in German and Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Tito Ceccherini

Speech Director: Marcus Lobbes

Light: Marcel Heyde

Dramaturges: Konrad Kuhn, Ursula Thinnies, Katja Herlemann

Dante: Sebastian Kuschmann

Dante's inner voice: Jan Jakob Monowid, Matthew Swensen, Sebastian Geyer, Eric Ander

Francesca: Karolina Makula

Ulisse: Alexander Kravets

Lucifero: Alfred Reiter, Sebastian Geyer, Matthew Swensen

Charon, Ugolino della Gherardesca: Frank Albrecht

Minos, Brunetto Latini: Ralf Drexler

Filippo Argenti, Alessio Interminei: Florian Mania

Cavalcante de Cavalcanti, Vanni Fucci: Andreas Gießler

Pier delle Vigne: Anna Kubin

Vocal Ensemble

Schumann Quartet

Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester

Co-produktion from Oper and Schauspiel Frankfurt

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein and the Aventus Foundation

Commissioning of the work financed by the Ernst von Siemens Musikstiftung

The World Premiere of the latest opera by **Lucia Ronchetti** (*1963), should have taken place in the spring of 2020 in the Bockenheimer Depot, but **Kay Voges'** and **Marcus Lobbes'** production was never realised because the pandemic stopped rehearsals. So the team decided that the World Premiere should take place on June 27th 2021 in concert. Luckily it was possible for a film of the opera by Kay Voges and Marcus Lobbes containing recent and historical material, into which Ronchetti's suggestive music is integrated, to be made and this will be screened, following on from the performances – also in the Bockenheimer Depot – from July 11th 2021.

Ronchetti is one of Italy's best known composers. Recent operatic productions have been seen at theatres including the Semperoper Dresden (*Mise en abyme*), the Staatsoper Berlin (*Rivale* and digital *Pinocchio's Adventure*) and the Nationaltheater Mannheim (*Esame di mezzanotte*). After studying composition in Rome she went to Paris to work with Gérard Grisey and François Lesure, then New York, with Tristan Murail. Lucia Ronchetti is a professor at the Conservatoire in Salerno and teaches regularly at institutions including Darmstadt's holiday courses. She is currently working as an endowed visiting professor at the University for Music and the Performing Arts in Frankfurt am Main. She was named as director of the Biennale Musica in Venice, one of the most important festivals for contemporary music, for a four year period in 2021.

The composer calls her work, which combines sung and spoken roles, an opera. It is based on *Inferno*, part one of the *Divine Comedy* (c. 1307-1321) by **Dante Alighieri** (1265-1321), who died 700 years ago this year. It's about a man who has failed as an artist, politician and human being. Banished from his home in Florence, the poet turns himself into a protagonist in his epochal work, enabling us to join him on his journey to purification. He conjures up a vision of the afterlife and portrays the tortured souls of the damned, which include some of his contemporaries, who he encounters with deep pity or anger and repulsion, with extraordinarily descriptive language. Mythical figures, such as Francesca da Rimini and Odysseus, cross his path too. A fascinating journey to hell, in which some of the audience might recognise themselves.

The conductor of this co-production with Schauspiel Frankfurt is **Tito Ceccherini**, from Italy, who recently conducted Bellini's *I puritani* and Janáček's *From the House of the Dead* at Oper Frankfurt. The two film directors, **Kay Voges** and **Marcus Lobbes**, are best known for their experimental use of virtual media in theatre. The Academy for Theatre and Digitality, founded by Voges, began functioning a year ago; its artistic director is Marcus Lobbes. Kay Voges is now Intendant of the Volkstheater in Vienna, after ten years running the Theater in Dortmund, and recent guest engagements have taken him to theatres including the Deutsche Schauspielhaus Hamburg, the Burgtheater in Vienna and Schauspiel Frankfurt. Dante is **Sebastian Kuschmann**, a Member of Schauspiel Frankfurt's Ensemble. He gained experience of contemporary opera at the Staatsoper Berlin. The rest of the cast consists of **Members of the Opera and Schauspiel Ensembles** and **Guests**, including a **Vocal Ensemble**. **The Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester** are joined by the **Schumann Quartet**.

Premiere / World Premiere / In concert: Sunday June 27th 2021, at 19.30hrs in the Bockenheimer Depot

Further performances: June 28th, July 1st, 2nd, 4th (15.30hrs), 5th, 8th, 9th 2021

Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19.30hrs

Tickets cost: € 15 to € 55 (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