

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt

LA SERVA PADRONA (THE MAID-MISTRESS)

Intermezzo in two parts by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

Libretto by Gennaro Antonio Federico

STABAT MATER

Catholic liturgical sequence by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi
author unknown

Sung in Italian and Latin with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Karsten Januschke

Director: Katharina Thoma

Set Designer: Etienne Pluss

Costume Designer: Irina Bartels

Lighting Designer: Olaf Winter

Dramaturge: Konrad Kuhn

Le serva padrona

Serpina: Simone Osborne / Kateryna Kasper

Uberto: Gordon Bintner / Simon Bailey

Vespone: Frank Albrecht

Stabat mater

Soprano: Monika Buszkowska / Ekin Su Paker

Mezzo-soprano: Kelsey Lauritano / Bianca Andrew

Oper Frankfurt's Extras

Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

The first ever production of Offenbach's *Die Banditen / The Bandits* in Frankfurt has been postponed to next season because of corona safety restrictions imposed on rehearsal and performing conditions. Oper Frankfurt has relaced it with a jolly two part intermezzo **La serva padrona (The Maid-Mistress)** by **Giovanni Battista Pergolesi** (1710-1736) and his **Stabat mater**. Despite the dissimilarities between subject matter and form, Pergolesi imposed a „gallant style“, so reliable in opera buffa, on his *Stabat mater* too, for which he was often criticised, but which contributed to the enormous popularity of the work.

The action of *Serva padrona*: Serpina has been living with Uberto for years as his housekeeper. But she doesn't want to be treated like a domestic any longer. With cunning and quick-witted charm the wily young woman does everything in her power to become Uberto's wife. Ensuring the success of her plan by enlisting the help of Uberto's servant Vespone. – The *Stabat mater dolorosa* conjures up a vision of Mary witnessing her son Jesus being put to death on the cross. These Latin verses from the Middle Ages have often been set to music. Pergolesi's composition, characterised by simplicity and intensity, is still performed today.

The production team for this Pergolesi double bill is identical to the one planned for Offenbach's Opéra bouffe: Conductor **Karsten Januschke**, who worked at Oper Frankfurt, where he was a Kapellmeister, until 2015. He returned in 2018 for Olga Neuwirth's *Lost Highway* and again a year later, for Handel's *Tamerlano* in the Bockenheimer Depot. He recently worked at the Volksoper in Vienna, the Landestheater in Bregenz and Staatstheater in Darmstadt. **Katharina Thoma**, a former directors' assistant with the company whose work, in addition to Barber's *Vanessa* in Stockholm and Frankfurt, has taken her to places including Karlsruhe, Dessau, Kassel and Graz. She returned to Oper Frankfurt in 2016/17 for Flotow's *Martha* and 2019/20 for Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*. The Candian soprano **Simone Osborne** (Serpina) recently made her debut in Germany at Oper Frankfurt, singing Vreli (role debut) in Delius' *Romeo und Julia auf dem Dorfe / A Village Romeo and Juliet*. This season she can be heard here and at the Tirol Festival in Erl as Norina in a New Production of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*. Other plans include Gretel in Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* at the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto. Others taking part, there are several casts, are all well known or former or new Members of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble and Opera Studio, including **Gordon Bintner** (Uberto), **Monika Buczkowska** (soprano) and **Kelsey Lauritano** (mezzo-soprano).

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt: Sunday October 18th 2020, at 18.00hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: October 22nd, 30th and during November and Dezember 2020

Unless otherwise stated, all performances in October 2020 begin at 19.00hrs

Tickets cost: € 15 to € 182 (with a 12.5% pre-booking fee when not purchased direct from the theatre)

Tickets go on sale on the 7th of the month before the performance and can be obtained from the usual outlets, by telephone +49 (0)69 – 212 49 49 4 or online www.oper-frankfurt.de.

We hope you might be able to publish these dates. 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: holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de.