

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt

LE ROI ARTHUS

Opera in three acts and six scenes by Ernest Chausson

Libretto by the composer

Sung in French with German and English surtitles



Conductor: Thomas Guggeis

Director: Manuel Schmitt

Set Designer: Bernhard Siegl

Costume Designer: Raphaela Rose

Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein

Video: Judith Selenko

Chorus Master: Manuel Pujol

Dramaturge: Konrad Kuhn

Arthus: Domen Križaj

Genièvre: Magdalena Hinterdobler

Lancelot: Thomas Blondelle

Mordred: Erik van Heyningen

Lyonel: Andrew Kim

Allan / A Knight: Thomas Faulkner

Merlin: Kihwan Sim /

Finn Sagal (December 12h, 16th 2026)

A Farmer: Sven Hjørleifsson

Five Women from Avalon: Younji Yi, Alina Avagyan,

Daniela Zib, Ruby Dibble, Judita Nagyová

A Squire: Hyeonjoon Kwon / Olivier Brunel

1st Soldier: Otakar Souček / André Lopes

2nd Soldier: Jin Soo Choi / Johannes Lehner

3rd Soldier: Nicolai Klawe / Lars Rößler

4th Soldier: Isaac Tolley / Aslan Diasamidze

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus and Extras; Frankfurt Opern and Museumsorchester

A co-production with the National Theatre in Prague

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

A vision of equality and peace is destroyed by jealousy, betrayal and human frailty: Oper Frankfurt's staging **Ernest Chausson's** (1855-1899) rarely performed *Le roi Arthus* for the first time. The composer's only full-length opera is a late romantic masterpiece, his own unique music revealing echoes of Richard Wagner combined with French impressionism. Chausson spent years perfecting his score and libretto before the work – four years after his tragic death in a bicycle accident – was performed for the first time in Brussels in 1903.

Central to the plot: the myth of King Arthur and the Round Table. What begins as a king's idealistic dream, replacing a time-honoured system of pecking order with equality, quickly turns into a tragedy. Lancelot, Arthur's trusted confidant, of all people, begins an affair with Queen Genièvre. When their illicit love is discovered and power-hungry Mordred attempts to steal the crown, the entire realm heads inexorably towards its downfall. So Chausson's tragic love triangle story mirrors the timeless fragility of democratic idealism and the collapse of an entire civilisation.

General Music Director **Thomas Guggeis** leads the Frankfurt Opern- and Museumsorchester in his first new production this season, which is followed by *Un ballo in maschera* and *The Greek Passion*. A regular guest with leading orchestras and opera companies, who's conducted at the Metropolitan Opera in New York and La Scala Milan, he makes his debut in Bayreuth in 2027, with *Tannhäuser*. The director is **Manuel Schmitt**, known to audiences in Frankfurt for his productions of Rossini's *Tancredi* and a Benjamin Britten *Prodigal Son* / *Burning Fiery Furnace* double bill. Plans later this season include a new *Madama Butterfly* in Hannover. King Arthur is sung by the baritone **Domen Križaj**, returning as a guest after six wonderful years in the Ensemble, during which roles included Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*) and Wolfram von Eschenbach (*Tannhäuser*). His Genièvre is **Magdalena Hinterdobler**, who enjoyed great success last season as Senta (*Der fliegende Holländer*) in Salzburg, the Bride (Fortner's *Blood Wedding*) and Ellen Orford (*Peter Grimes*) in Frankfurt and, this autumn, the Marschallin in a new *Der Rosenkavalier* to re-open Cologne Opera. Lancelot is the Belgian tenor **Thomas Blondelle**, and Ensemble Member **Erik van Heyningen's** his enemy, Mordred. **Sven Hjørleifsson**, a Farmer, **Kihwan Sim** and **Finn Sagal**, Merlin, **Andrew Kim**, Lyonel and **Thomas Faulkner**, Allan / A Knight, complete the cast.

Premiere: Sunday November 8th at 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: November 14th, 27th (19hrs), 29th, December 3rd (19hrs), 12th 16th 2026
Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 18hrs.

Tickets cost: € 16 to € 198 (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.