

Premiere / Frankfurt's first ever staged performance

**LE VIN HERBÉ (BITTERSWEET WINE)**

Secular oratorio (1938/1941) by Frank Martin,

based on three chapters from Joseph Bédier's *Tristan et Iseut* (1900)

Sung in French with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Markus Poschner / Nikolai Petersen (January 2021)

Director: Tilmann Köhler

Set Designer: Karoly Risz

Costume Designer: Susanne Uhl

Lighting Designer: Jan Hartmann

Chorus Master: Tilman Michael

Dramaturge: Zsolt Horpácsy

Iseut, the Fair: Eleonore Marguerre

Iseut, the Whitehanded: Marvic Monreal

Tristan: Ian Koziara

Branghien: Bianca Tognocchi

King Marc: Kihwan Sim

Kaherdin: Theo Lebow

Iseut the Fair's Mother: Judita Nagyová

Duke Hoël: Anthony Robin Schneider

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus

Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester

The Swiss composer **Frank Martin's** (1890-1974) idea to set the Tristan saga to music in a radically new way, 60 years after Richard Wagner, was single-minded and daring. A different *Tristan* emerged, a secular oratorio, an intentional antithesis to Wagner's opera. Unlike the overpowering, dramatic prototype, Martin composed for solo voices, a vocal ensemble – performed, exceptionally, in this production, by members of Oper Frankfurt's Chorus – six solo string players and piano. He also used different texts, the professor for French medieval literature Joseph Bédier's *Le Roman de Tristan et Iseut* (1900), instead of Gottfried von Straßburg's *Tristan*. It's epic form called for epic music. The score combines archaic moments à la Gesualdo with declamatory texts, bridging the gap with ancient Greek theatre. The world premiere of Martin's *Le vin herbé*, in concert, in French, took place on March 26th 1942 in the Tonhalle in Zürich, the first staged performance on August 15th 1948, in German, at the Salzburg Festival. A chance to see this work, staged, for the first time in Frankfurt.

Martin tells his very unusual, headstrong modern masterpiece, the story of Tristan and Isolde (Iseut), from their voyage to Cornwall, where she is to marry King Marc against her will, until they are joined in death, in 18 scenes, a prologue and epilogue.

The originally planned new production, Zemlinsky's *Der Traumgörge / Görge the Dreamer*, was replaced by Martin's secular oratorio to comply with corona safety regulations; the production team is unchanged. Leading the orchestra is **Markus Poschner**, Chief Conductor of the Bruckner Orchester in Linz. He made his debut at Oper Frankfurt in 2015/16 with a new, staged, production of Handel's *Messiah*. Drama orientated director **Tilmann Köhler** is a very welcome guest in Frankfurt, where he has directed various baroque operas. Heidelberg born soprano **Eleonore Marguerre** (Iseut, the Fair) is back in Frankfurt after a long absence. She recently sang Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* and Verdi's *Traviata* at the Staatstheater in Nürnberg and Deutsche Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf-Duisburg. Chicago born tenor **Ian Koziara** (Tristan) was a member of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program from 2016 to 2019. He made his debut at Oper Frankfurt in 2018/19, as Fritz in a wonderful new production of Schreker's *Der ferne Klang / The Distant Sound*. Mezzo-soprano **Marvic Monreal** (Iseut, the Whitehanded) was born in Malta and joined Oper Frankfurt's Opera Studio in 2020/21. The other roles are sung by Frankfurt Ensemble members: **Bianca Tognocchi** (Branghien), **Kihwan Sim** (King Marc), **Theo Lebow** (Kaherdin), **Judita Nagyová** (Iseut the Fair's Mother) and **Anthony Robin Schneider** (Duke Hoël).

**Premiere / Frankfurt's first ever staged performance:** Sunday November 22nd 2020, at 18.00hrs in the Opera House

**Further performances:** November 27th, December 3rd, 5th (18.00hrs), 11th 2020, and more in January 2021  
Unless otherwise stated, performances in November and December 2020 begin at 19.30hrs

**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](http://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](mailto:holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de).