

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt

L'INVISIBLE

Trilogie lyrique by Aribert Reimann

Text by the composer based on Maurice Maeterlinck

Sung in French with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Titus Engel

Director: Daniela Löffner

Set Designer: Fabian Wendling

Costume Designer: Daniela Selig

Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein

Dramaturge: Maximilian Enderle

L'intruse

Grandfather: Erik van Heyningen

Father: Sebastian Geyer

Uncle: Gerard Schneider

Ursule: Irina Simmes

Servant: Cláudia Ribas

Compassionate Sister: Karolina Makuła

Dying Mother: Viola Pobitschka

Child: Johann Böhme / Victor Böhme

Intérieur

Old Man: Erik van Heyningen

Stranger: Gerard Schneider

Marthe: Karolina Makuła

Marie: Irina Simmes

Drowned Girl: Cláudia Ribas

Father: Sebastian Geyer

Mother: Viola Pobitschka

Son: Johann Böhme / Victor Böhme

La mort de Tintagiles

Ygraine: Irina Simmes

Bellangère: Karolina Makuła

Aglovale: Erik van Heyningen

The Queen's Servants:

Iurii Iushkevich, Tobias Hechler, Dmitry Egorov

Tintagiles: Johann Böhme / Victor Böhme

Mother: Viola Pobitschka

Oper Frankfurt's Extras; Frankfurt Opern and Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Aribert Reimann (1936-2024) created a poetic contemplation about the power of death using three plays by **Maurice Maeterlinck** (1862-1949) for his last opera, *L'invisible*. Maeterlinck's plays, written towards the end of the 19th century, oscillate between day-to-day realism and symbolic ambiguity. Normality constantly invoking the valley of death, which is omnipresent in Reimann's score too. The characters' fears and premonitions are reflected in expressive vocal writing and iridescent orchestral interludes. Richly contrasting orchestration allows the three works to merge, seamlessly, into one another. Aribert Reimann first encountered Maeterlinck's short plays in the 1980s when he went to a performance of *L'intruse* and *Intérieur* at the Schaubühne in Berlin. Looking back he described that evening as the inspiration for his work on *L'invisible*: „I left the theatre and knew: you'll write music for that one day!“ While working on the libretto between 2011 and 2016 the composer chanced upon *La mort de Tintagiles*, which he used to complete *L'invisible*. The work is dedicated to Reimann's brother, who died in World War II, and enjoyed its triumphant World Premiere at the Deutsche Oper Berlin in 2017.

The opening piece *L'intruse* is about a mother fighting for her life a few weeks after giving birth. While most of her relatives fail to grasp the seriousness of the situation, her blind grandfather registers the arrival of an invisible stranger. *Intérieur* begins with a young girl taking her own life. Two men, charged with the task of breaking the news to the dead girl's family, wonder whether it wouldn't be more humane to keep the bitter truth from them. *La mort de Tintagiles* is reminiscent of a lugubrious fairy tale: An old Queen has her grandson Tintagiles brought to her kingdom to prevent him ever inheriting her throne by having him murdered. His sisters do all they can to protect him and put up a fight, but he ends up vanishing in his grandmother's mysterious castle.

The conductor **Titus Engel**, a specialist for contemporary music, returns to the company for the first ever performances of this work in Frankfurt. It is staged by **Daniela Löffner**, House Director at the Staatsschauspiel in Dresden, directing her first opera after many successful productions of plays. The renowned soprano **Irina Simmes** is back in Frankfurt, where she made her debut as Konstanze in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* and whose recent successes included appearances in the *Ring des Nibelungen* at Theater Dortmund and the Tirol Festival in Erl, to sing the key roles of Ursule / Marie / Ygraine. She is joined by Members of the Ensemble including **Erik van Heyningen** as the Grandfather / Old Man / Aglovale, **Gerard Schneider** as the Uncle / Stranger, **Karolina Makuła** as Marthe / Bellangère and **Sebastian Geyer** as the Father. The Queen's three servants in *La mort de Tintagiles* are sung by three countertenors: **Dmitry Egorov**, a regular guest at Oper Frankfurt, **Tobias Hechler**, making his House Debut, and **Iurii Iushkevich**, who thrilled audiences last season singing Nireno in *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*.

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt: Sunday March 30th 2025, at 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: April 5th, 13th (18hrs), 16th, 18th (18hrs), 26th, May 2nd 2025
Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19.30 hrs.

Tickets cost: € 16 to € 132 (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.