

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt

L'ITALIANA IN LONDRA

Intermezzo in musica in two parts by Domenico Cimarosa

Libretto by Giuseppe Petrosellini

Sung in Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Leo Hussain

Director: R.B. Schlather

Set Designer: Paul Steinberg

Costume Designer: Doey Lüthi

Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein

Dramaturge: Mareike Wink

Livia: Angela Vallone

Madama Brillante: Bianca Tognocchi

Sumers: Theo Lebow

Milord Arespingh: Iurii Samoilov

Don Polidoro: Gordon Bintner

Oper Frankfurt Extras

Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

L'italiana in Londra, the twelfth opera Naples born composer **Domenico Cimarosa** (1749-1801) wrote, was his first international success. This cheerful Intermezzo in musica, with cleverly crafted arias, duets and ensembles which drive the plot along, was soon being performed all over Europe after the World Premiere in the Teatro Valle in Rome in 1778. Audiences were thrilled, only Cimarosa's *Il matrimonio segreto*, of 1792, was a bigger success than *L'italiana in Londra*.

English Milord Arespingh fell in love with the young aristocrat Livia in Genua some years ago, but his father thwarted the lovers plans by ordering his son back to England and then packing him off to Jamaica. Livia followed her beloved but, unable to find him in London, she felt betrayed, and found employment in Madama Brillante's hotel. In no time at all she was not only her boss' confidante, but also the adored centre of attention for the male guests, including the Dutch merchant Sumers and Italian filou Don Polidoro. It's not long before Arespingh turns up too. Livia, still incognito, only gradually becomes convinced of Arespingh's innocence. When she's about to be arrested, Arespingh manages to expose Livia's father as the mastermind and win the young woman's hand again. Polidoro consoles himself with Madama Brillante, and Sumers is happy too. There's a subplot about a magic stone, which apparently makes people invisible, enabling Madama Brillante and her guests to dupe Don Polidoro ...

The music side of things in this New Production are under the baton of the internationally sought-after conductor **Leo Hussain**, back in Frankfurt, where he made his debut in 2010/11 with Ravel's *L'Heure espagnole* and de Fallas *La vida breve*, which was followed by Weinberg's *Die Passagierin / The Passenger*. The American director **R.B. Schlather** is back in Frankfurt, where he made his European debut with Handel's *Tamerlano* in the Bockenheimer Depot 2019/20 – staging a work in the opera house for the first time. He has made a name for himself, not only at home, with his ability to involve himself closely with the characters and predeliction for baroque music. Members of the Ensemble make up the cast: **Angela Vallone** (Livia), **Bianca Tognocchi** (Madama Brillante), **Theo Lebow** (Sumers), **Iurii Samoilov** (Milord Arespingh) and **Gordon Bintner** (Don Polidoro).

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt: Sunday September 26th 2021, at 18.00hrs
in the Opera House

Further performances: October 1st, 9th, 15th, 24th (15.30hrs), 30th (18.00hrs), November 5th 2021
Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19.30hrs

Tickets cost: € 15 to € 182 (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