

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt

MASKERADE

Comic Opera in three acts by Carl Nielsen

Text by Vilhelm Andersen based on a comedy (1724) by Ludvig Holberg

New German translation by Martin G. Berger

based on Hans-Erich Heller's linear translation

Sung in German with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Titus Engel

Director: Tobias Kratzer

Set and Costume Designer: Rainer Sellmaier

Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein

Choreographer: Kinsun Chan

Chorus Master: Tilman Michael

Dramaturge: Konrad Kuhn

Jeronimus: Alfred Reiter

Leonora: Monika Buczkowska

Magdelone: Susan Bullock

Pernille: Barbara Zechmeister

Leander: Michael Porter

Nightwatchman / Master of Masquerades: Božidar Smiljanić

Henrik: Liviu Holender

Mask Merchant: Danylo Matviienko

Arv: Samuel Levine

Magister: Gabriel Rollinson

Leonard: Michael McCown

and others

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus and Extras; Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Royal Danish Embassy, the Danish Ministry for Culture and the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

The Comic Opera *Maskerade* by **Carl Nielsen** (1865-1931) is based on a comedy by „Danish Molière“ Ludvig Holberg from 1724. The work is regarded as Denmark's National Opera, but is rarely performed abroad. The score combines folk song with Mozartian elegance, sultry romantic cantilenas and energetic dance. The orchestration is highly virtuosic and full of harmonic and contrapuntal surprises. Oper Frankfurt commissioned the translator and director Martin G. Berger to write a new German version, based on Hans-Erich Heller's linear translation. It communicates the 1906 Danish libretto's exuberance in present day language with linguistic wit, allowing the comedy to blossom.

Rich upper-class Jeronimus is very dubious about the craze for masquerade balls: identities get blurred and the old order is threatened with collapse. But his son Leander has fallen in love with a beautiful stranger at just such a masquerade, and she in him. He refuses to comply with his father's plans and marry Leonora, Jeronimus' business friend Leonard's daughter. Leonard secretly succumbs to the lure of masquerade, as does Jeronimus' wife Magdelone, whom he gets closer to, incognito, at the ball. Leander is accompanied by his valet, wily Henrik, who knows how to deal with every situation and skillfully intervenes on his master's behalf. In the end, after all sorts of complications, it turns out that the bride Leander's father had in mind and the beautiful stranger at the ball, to whom he has sworn everlasting love, are one and the same.

The conductor is **Titus Engel**, who made his debut at Oper Frankfurt in 2013/14 with Telemann's *Orpheus* in the Bockenheimer Depot, where he returned for Mozart's *Betulia liberata* in 2016/17. The pandemic put paid to him returning to Frankfurt for *La Dame aux Camélias* / *Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher* and *Don Giovanni*, which have been postponed. He conducted a new production of Wagner's *Lohengrin* at the Tirol Festival in Erl and leads the first revival of Strauss' *Salome* here before Nielsen's *Maskerade* opens. The director **Tobias Kratzer** created sensational productions of Meyerbeer's *L'Africaine – Vasco da Gama* (2017/18) and Verdi's *La forza del destino* (2018/19) for Frankfurt, which were followed by Wagner's *Tannhäuser* at the 2019 Bayreuth Festival. Recent productions have included Strauß' „Zigeuner“ *baron* / *Gypsy Baron* at the Komische Oper Berlin. Nearly all the singers are **Members of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble, Opera Studio and Chorus** – with two exceptions: **Susan Bullock** (Magdelone), the celebrated Brünnhilde in the new Frankfurt *Ring des Nibelungen*, which began in 2010/11, and **Samuel Levine** (Arv), who made his European debut in 2017 in the Bockenheimer Depot, as Bertoldo in Trojahn's *Enrico*. Recent engagements have included roles in *Königskinder* and *Lohengrin* in Erl.

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt: Sunday October 31st 2021, at 18.00hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: November 4th, 13th, 20th (18.00hrs), 28th (18.00hrs), December 2nd, 4th 2021

Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19.00hrs

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