

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt

MAZEPPA

Opera in three acts and six scenes by Peter I Tchaikovsky

Sung in Russian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Karsten Januschke

Director: Matthew Wild

Set and Costume Designer: Herbert Murauer

Video: Bibi Abel

Choreographer: Christiana Stefanou

Combat Choreographer: Stephen Louis

Lighting Designer: Jan Hartmann

Chorus Master: Manuel Pujol

Dramaturge: Maximilian Enderle

Mazeppa: Petr Sokolov

Maria: Nombulelo Yende

Kochubey: Alexander Roslavets / Alex Birkus (18th, 20th, 26th September, October 4th 2026)

Andrei: John Findon / Kudaibergen Abildin (1. October 2026)

Ljubov: Karolina Makula

Orlik: Jarrett Porter

Iskra: Jihun Hong

Drunk Kossack: Kudaibergen Abildin

Dancers: Eleonora Ricci, Gabriel Capizzi

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus; Frankfurt Opern and Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Mazeppa, arguably **Peter I. Tchaikovsky's** (1840–1893) most sinister and pessimistic opera, was written between 1881 and 1883 and based, as were *Eugene Onegin* and *Pique Dame*, on works by Alexander Pushkin. Tchaikovsky's score makes a powerful theatrical impact: combining military and jarring tonalities, paving the way for Shostakovich and others, with moments of mesmerising lyrical beauty, his music drawing on traditional Ukrainian and Russian folk song to reveal emotional depths to the ambivalently portrayed characters. In **Matthew Wild's** production, being performed in Frankfurt after it first opened in Erl in 2024, it becomes a timeless political parable about an elite who manipulate their own people to settle private conflicts. Bavarian Radio described Wild's production as „disconcertingly relevant and unmissable“.

The plot: Maria, wealthy Kochubey's daughter, loves Mazeppa, who is much older than her. She bows to his ultimatum to either follow him, against her father's wishes, or never see him again, for which Kochubey denounces Mazeppa to the Tsar for high treason. This backfires: The Tsar believes Mazeppa and hands Kochubey over to be executed. Driven by unquenchable desire for power, Mazeppa's attempt to seize the crown triggers a bloody civil war. Surrounded by refugees, Maria gradually loses her mind ...

Karsten Januschke conducts the first ever performances of Tchaikovsky's opera in Frankfurt, where he recently led a New Production of Jacques Offenbach's *The Bandits*. During his time here as Kapellmeister (until 2015) he built up a broad and varied repertoire. **Matthew Wild** directs the work in Frankfurt, where he recently staged a wonderful production of Richard Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, which is being revived in January 2027. He directed Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in Bonn in January 2026, which was followed in May by *Le nozze di Figaro* in Oslo. The title role and Maria, as in Erl, are sung by **Petr Sokolov** and **Nombulelo Yende**, a Member of the Opera Studio who joined Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble in 2024/25 and can be heard later this season in a Museumskonzert and as Monica in a New Production of Respighi's *La fiamma*, and singing her first *Aidas*. Praise from the Salzburg press for the lead roles in Erl: „Petr Sokolov excels as the tragic hero, with wonderful singing. Nombulelo Yende lends Maria vocal wings, even when consumed with grief.“ **Alexander Roslavets** and **Alex Birkus** sing Kochubey and **John Findon** and **Kudaibergen Abildin** are Andrei. Other roles are sung by **members of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble and Opera Studio**.

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt: Sunday September 13th 2026, at 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: September 18th, 20th, 26th, October 1st, 4th (15.30hrs), 10th, 15th 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.