

Premiere / First ever staged performance in Frankfurt

**MITRIDATE, RE DI PONTO**

Opera seria in three acts

Text by Vittorio Amedeo Cigna-Santi based on Jean Baptiste Racine

Sung in Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Leo Hussain

Director: Claus Guth

Set Designer: Christian Schmidt

Costume Designer: Ursula Kudrna

Choreographer: Sommer Ulrickson

Lighting Designer: Olaf Winter

Dramaturge: Konrad Kuhn

Mitridate: Robert Murray

Aspasia: Bianca Tognocchi

Sifare: Monika Buczkowska-Ward

Farnace: Franko Klisović

Ismene: Younji Yu

Marzio: Jihun Hong

Arbate: Kudaibergen Abildin

Major Domo: Philippe Jacq

Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

A co-production with the Teatro Real, in Madrid, Teatro di San Carlo, in Naples, and Gran Teatre del Liceu, in Barcelona

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756-1791) was only 14 when he wrote *Mitridate, re di Ponto*. He composed it for La Scala Milan, whose courtly echelons were initially sceptical about the young composer. But their criticism faded away during rehearsals. In his first opera seria Mozart searched for the right music to portray his characters complex and contradictory states of mind. Mozart's *Mitridate* is much more than a youthful work, as it broke with musical conventions of the day. The arias stand out because of their increasing emotional intensity.

The opera's about a formidable father figure, King Mitridate. Mozart deals with the challenges and conflicts of human coexistence facing seven characters – musically and cerebral. The aging King wants to marry again, but senses his two sons might vie with him for his fiancé Aspasia's love and the throne. So he spreads the rumour that he died fighting the Romans. His elder son Farnace immediately tries to persuade his father's young bride to marry him. But Aspasia secretly loves his younger brother Sifare, begging him to protect her from Farnace's unwelcome advances. The presumed dead King of Pontus reappears; with Ismene, who Farnace once promised to marry. Everyone starts eyeing each other up suspiciously ...

The second New Production of a Mozart opera this season – after *Così fan tutte* – is conducted by **Leo Hussain**, who returns for Weinberg's *The (female) Passenger* in early 2026. The director of this co-production between opera companies in Madrid, Naples and Barcelona is **Claus Guth**. He directed a new *Elektra* in Frankfurt in 2023 and his productions of *Daphne* and *Pelléas et Mélisande* here both won DER FAUST theatre prizes. The demanding title role of Mitridate is sung by the British tenor **Robert Murray**, making his Debut in Frankfurt. He sang the role at the Hamburg State Opera and is a regular guest at places including the Salzburg Festival, London and Oslo. The rest of the cast for the first ever staged performances of Mozart's work in Frankfurt consists of the actor **Philipp Jacq** – known to audiences in Frankfurt as the Master of Ceremonies / Duc de Bedford in *Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher* and Dr. Crabbe in Britten's *Peter Grimes* – and **Members of the Ensemble, Opera Studio** and dancers.

**Premiere / First staged performance in Frankfurt:** Sunday December 7th 2025, at 18hrs in the Opera House

**Further performances:** December 11th (19hrs), 14th, 20th, 22nd (19hrs), 28th, January 4th, 10th 2026

Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 18hrs.

**Tickets cost:** € 16 to € 190 (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](http://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](mailto:holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de).