

Premiere

ORLANDO

Opera seria in three acts by George Frideric Handel

Libretto based on Carlo Sigismondo Capece

Sung in Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Simone Di Felice

Director: Ted Huffman

Set Designer: Johannes Schütz

Costume Designer: Raphaela Rose

Choreographer: Jenny Ogilvie

Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein

Video: Georg Lendorff

Dramaturge: Maximilian Enderle

Orlando: Zanda Švēde

Angelica: Kateryna Kasper

Medoro: Christopher Lowrey

Dorinda: Monika Buczkowska

Zoroastro: Božidar Smiljanić

Dancers: Mar Sánchez Cisneros, Marion Plantey,
Evie Poaros, Gabriele Ascani, Jonathan Schmidt

Oper Frankfurt's Extras

Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

By falling back on Ludovico Ariosto's 1516 epic poem *Orlando furioso* **George Frideric Handel** (1685-1759) hoped to breath new life into his operatic enterprises in London. He risked a new start in 1729 after the Royal Academy of Music 1728 ran out of money. But he was only able to build on past successes to a limited extent with revivals of older works such as *Rinaldo* and new opera series including *Ezio*. Getting to grips with *Orlando*, performed for the first time at the King's Theatre, Haymarket, London in 1733, gave him the opportunity to break with archaic operatic conventions and present London audiences with an emotionally profound work full of baroque magic and enlightened morality.

The story: The warrior Orlando has lost his bearings. Should he be striving for happiness in love or glory? The magician Zoroastro wants to put him back on the path to military valour, but Orlando digs his heels in: He wants to be a hero among lovers instead of fighting. His adored Angelica, whose life Orlando once saved, loves Medoro, a soldier. When Orlando finds out, he loses his mind, killing Angelica and Medoro in a jealous rage. Zoroastro's magic saves the lovers and, finally, restores Orlando's sanity. Full of remorse he promises to control his passions in the future. The shepherdess Dorinda suffers from unrequited love too: She had her eyes on Medoro, who turned her down with a heavy heart. Dorinda deals with her heartache more calmly than Orlando: She ends up inviting everyone to her home to sing the praises of love and glory.

The production is led by Italian born **Simone Di Felice**, a Kapellmeister at Oper Frankfurt since 2017/18. He recently conducted performances of Verdi's *Rigoletto* and Bizet's *Carmen*, Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* (2020/21) and a revival of Handel's *Radamisto* (2019/20). The director **Ted Huffman** projects include Stefan Wirth's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* (April 2022) and Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* (April 2023) at Zurich Opera. Now he's back at Oper Frankfurt, where he made his debut in Germany with *Rinaldo* in the Bockenheimer Depot (September 2017), which was followed by a controversially received *Zauberflöte* earlier this season. The cast is made up almost entirely from singers from Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble: **Zanda Švēde** (Orlando), **Kateryna Kasper** (Angelica), **Monika Buczkowska** (Dorinda) and **Božidar Smiljanić** (Zoroastro), who are joined by American born **Christopher Lowrey** (Medoro), one of the leading countertenors of the younger generation, who has appeared at many leading international houses.

Premiere: Sunday January 29th 2023, 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: February 4th, 10th, 12th (18hrs), 18th, 25th, March 4th, 10th, 12th (15.30hrs) 2023
Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19hrs

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.

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.