

Premiere

PARSIFAL

A Celebration of Bayreuth's stage in three acts by Richard Wagner

Libretto by the composer

Sung in German with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Thomas Guggeis

Director: Brigitte Fassbaender

Set and Costume Designer: Johannes Leiacker

Lighting Designer: Jan Hartmann

Enchantresses Choreography: Katherina Wiedenhofer

Chorus Master: Gerhard Polifka

Dramaturge: Konrad Kuhn

Amfortas: Nicholas Brownlee

Titirel: Alfred Reiter

Gurnemanz: Andreas Bauer Kanabas

Parsifal: Ian Koziara

Kundry: Jennifer Holloway

1st Knight of the Grail: Kudaibergen Abildin

2nd Knight of the Grail: Sakhiwe Mkosana

1st Squire: Idil Kutay

2nd Squire: Nina Tarandek

3rd Squire: Andrew Bidlack

4th Squire: Andrew Kim

Klingsor's Enchantresses: Clara Kim, Idil Kutay, Nina Tarandek;

Nombulelo Yende, Julia Stuart, Judita Nagyová

Voice from on High: Katharina Magiera

Herzeleide: Katharina Wiedenhofer

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus and Extras

Frankfurt Opern and Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Richard Wagner (1813-1883) dedicated his last work for the theatre he designed in Bayreuth, which opened in 1876 with his *Ring des Nibelungen*. He continued using leitmotifs, as in the *Ring*, but differently. In the tetralogy, and earlier works, violent confrontations were often used to heighten the drama in the plot, but events in Wagner's „Farewell from the World“ unfold at a different pace, with the music transcending a pseudo-religious setting, penetrating worlds no composer had dared bring to the stage before.

The action: The Knights of the Grail have been languishing ever since Amfortas, their King, lost the holy spear to Klingsor while being seduced by Kundry. Only an „innocent fool, enlightened by compassion“, can rescue it from the sorcerer. Parsifal, finding himself in Klingsor's garden of delights, suddenly understands Amfortas's anguish after being kissed by seductive Kundry. He trounces the sorcerer and, after a long odyssey, returns the spear to the Grail on Good Friday, bringing redemption to Kundry, who was tormented by sinful lust and the longing for forgiveness, too.

This new production is conducted by General Music Director **Thomas Guggeis**, whose other work for the house during the 2024/25 season includes a revival of Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*. **Brigitte Fassbaender** has directed nearly 100 operas since ending her fulminant career as a singer, including Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Capriccio* and, in the Bockenheimer Depot, Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Paul Bunyan* and the World Premiere of Vito Žuraj's *Blossoming* for Oper Frankfurt. The title role is sung by US American tenor **Ian Koziara**, with his compatriot **Jennifer Holloway** (Kundry) also back at the house on Willy-Brandt-Platz, where they sang Fritz and Grete in Schreker's *Der ferne Klang* in 2018/19 (CD - OehmsClassics) and again in 2022/23. Jennifer Holloway's roles this season include Salome at the Vienna State Opera and Sieglinde in Wagner's *Die Walküre* in Bayreuth, and Koziara has just been singing Filka Morozov in the first revival of Janáček's *From the House of the Dead* in Frankfurt and can be heard soon as Froh in Wagner's *Rheingold* at the Bayerische Staatsoper. Led by **Nicholas Brownlee** (Amfortas), **Alfred Reiter** (Titirel), **Andreas Bauer Kanabas** (Gurnemanz) and **Iain MacNeil** (Klingsor), nearly all roles are being sung by **Members, and former Members, of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble and Opera Studio**.

Premiere: Sunday May 18th 2025, at 17hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: May 24th, 29th, June 1st (15.30hrs), 7th, 9th (15.30hrs), 14th, 19th 2025

Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 17hrs.

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.