

New production / First ever performance in Frankfurt

RODELINDA, REGINA DE' LONGOBARDI

Dramma per musica in three acts by George Frideric Handel

Libretto by Nicola Francesco Haym

based on Pierre Corneille's *Pertharite, roi des Lombards* (1652)

Sung in Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Andrea Marcon

Director: Claus Guth

Rehearsed by: Axel Weidauer

Set and Costume Designer: Christian Schmidt

Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein

Video: Andi A. Müller

Choreography: Ramses Sigl

Dramaturge: Konrad Kuhn

Rodelinda: Lucy Crowe

Bertarido: Andreas Scholl

Grimoaldo: Martin Mitterrutzner

Eduige: Katharina Magiera

Unulfu: Jakub Józef Orliński

Garibaldo: Božidar Smiljanić

Flavio: Fabián Augusto Gómez Bohórquez and others

Oper Frankfurt's Extras; Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester

Co-production with the Teatro Real, Madrid, Opéra de Lyon and Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona

The King's Theatre, Haymarket, London was the venue for the World Premiere on February 13 1725 of *Rodelinda* by **George Frideric Handel** (1685-1759). This masterpiece, intended for the Royal Academy of Music, was a huge success for this very successful opera and oratorio composer at the height of his career in London. The libretto was written by the experienced theatre man and adapter of texts, Nicola Francesco Haym. It was based on Pierre Corneille's tragedy *Pertharite, roi des Lombards* (1652). After being seen in Lyon and Barcelona this celebrated Claus Guth production, first seen in Madrid in 2017, now comes to Frankfurt, with an almost entirely new cast, before going on to Amsterdam in 2020.

Bertarido, King of the Langobards, kills his brother in a fight over the throne. He flees and spreads rumours of his death. Grimoaldo, who is engaged to Bertarido's sister Eduige, plans to rule by marrying Bertarido's wife Rodelinda. She refuses him. Grimoaldo's friend Garibaldo threatens to kill her son Flavio if she continues to refuse Grimoaldo's hand. Bertarido, believed to be dead, returns and is imprisoned. When he manages to escape he thwarts Garibaldo's insidious attempt to attack Grimoaldo. Grimoaldo hands the throne over to him in gratitude, marries Eduige and contents himself by ruling Pavia.

The conductor is the Venetian specialist for baroque music **Andrea Marcon**. This founder of the Venice Baroque Orchestra appeared in Frankfurt for the first time with a New Production of Handel's *Ariodante* in 2005. This prize winning musician recently led Vivaldi's oratorio *Juditha Triumphans* at De Nationale Opera in Amsterdam. Other engagements have taken him to leading Opera Houses around the world. Frankfurt born Claus Guth staged Handel's masterpiece *Rodelinda* as „gripping theatre“ (Frankfurter Rundschau). This internationally sought-after director's current projects include Handel's *Orlando* at the Theater an der Wien. The title role is sung by the British soprano **Lucy Crowe**, the only singer in the cast already familiar with this production, appearing in Frankfurt for the first time. Recent roles at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, where she has appeared regularly since 2009, have included Gilda in Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Eltville born countertenor **Andreas Scholl** (Bertarido), one of the most admired representatives of his fach, is back at Oper Frankfurt, where he sang the title role in Handel's *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* in 2016. His Polish colleague **Jakub Józef Orliński** (Unulfo), who recently enjoyed a triumph as Handel's Rinaldo in sold out performances at the Bockenheimer Depot, also makes a welcome return, as does a very popular former Member of the Ensemble, the tenor **Martin Mitterrutzner** (Grimoaldo), from Tyrol / Austria, who recently charmed audiences here as Camille de Rosillon in Lehár's *Die lustige Witwe*. Also taking part are Ensemble Members **Katharina Magiera** (mezzo-soprano / Eduige) and **Božidar Smiljanić** (bass baritone / Garibaldo). Claus Guth tells the story from the perspective of a child, Flavio, performed again by the actor of short stature **Fabián Augusto Gómez Bohórquez**.

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt: Sunday May 12th 2019, at 18.00hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: May 17th, 19th, (18.00hrs), 23rd, 25th (18.00hrs), 30th (18.00hrs), June 1st, 8th 2019

Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19.00hrs

Tickets cost: € 15 to € 165 (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