

Press release from June 24th 2020

SCHEDULE CHANGES IN AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2020 AT OPER FRANKFURT SUBJECT TO FURTHER RELAXATIONS TO CORONA REGULATIONS

In view of the limitations imposed on being able to rehearsal and perform due to the corona crisis, Oper Frankfurt have had to reschedule the start of season in August / September, subject to further relaxations to corona regulations:

The first ever production of **György Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre*** (conductor: Sebastian Weigle; director: Vasily Barkhatov) in Frankfurt scheduled to open on September 13rd 2020 will now take place in the 2023/24 season and is being replaced by **Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Medium*** (conductor: GMD Sebastian Weigle; director: Hans Walter Richter), which was performed for the first time last summer, and a first in Germany, in the Bockenheimer Depot, with Bruno Maderna's *Satyricon*, and now moves into the Opera House – without *Satyricon*, but combined with works for orchestra and chorus to give as many people as possible the chance of performing before a larger audience again. Oper Frankfurt is also giving people who might have missed it in the Depot another chance to see this successful production. By planning two performances a day we hope that as many people as possible will have the chance to see it, despite a probable restricted number of people in the audience. The dates are: September 13th (17.00hrs and 20.30hrs), 17th (19.30hrs), 19th (17.00hrs and 20.30hrs) and 25th (17.00hrs and 20.30hrs).

The rest of September – as originally planned – consists of three revivals: **Vincenzo Bellini's *I puritani*** (conductor: Oksana Lyniv; director: Vincent Boussard) which opens on September 3rd 2020 at 19.00hrs – August 30th is canceled – followed by **Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*** (conductor: Rory Macdonald; director: Guillaume Bernardi) from September 18th 2020 at 19.00hrs. Restrictions in place mean that the planned revival of **Dmitri D. Shostakovitch's *Lady Macbeth von Mzensk*** on September 27th cannot take place because of the huge numbers of soloists, chorus and orchestral musicians involved. This will be replaced at 18.00hrs by **Jules Massenet's *Werther*** (conductor: Takeshi Moriuchi; director: Willy Decker) – a work for fewer soloists, chorus and orchestral musicians, which was originally planned for May 2021. The dates for the rest of September remain as published, although the productions will probably have been adapted slightly. There is one more performance than originally envisaged: *Le nozze di Figaro* at 19.00hrs on September 24 2020.

A concept is being evolved to allow some of the other **Special and Foyer Events** to take place.

Advance booking will not begin on July 6 2020, as announced. An alternative date will be made known after the theatre's summer holiday. This is so that all **Subscription Holders** can be given a chance to book for September first. There are great hopes that the numbers of audience members might be adjusted upwards by late summer. „It is out of the question that we will perform for only 250 people next season, especially in view of the fact that distance keeping regulations mean that we actually only have room for just over 140. I think it would be have to be at least 500, if it is to make any sense artistically and financially“, said Intendant Bernd Loebe.

It is possible that other changes to the season will have to be made – in September 2020 too – but if there are they will be made known as soon as possible.

In the hope that you might be able to publish this information.

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