

Premiere

TANCREDI

Melodramma eroico in 2 acts by Gioachino Rossini

Libretto by Gaetano Rossi after Voltaire

Sung in Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Giuliano Carella

Director: Manuel Schmitt

Set Designer: Bernhard Siegl

Costume Designer: Raphaela Rose

Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein

Chorus Master: Manuel Pujol

Dramaturge: Konrad Kuhn

Argirio: Theo Lebow

Amenaide: Bianca Tognocchi

Orbazzano: Kihwan Sim

Tancredi: Cláudia Ribas

Loredana Clara Kim

Isaura: Ruby Dibble

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus and Extras

Frankfurt Opern and Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Tancredi by **Gioachino Rossini**, commissioned by the Teatro La Fenice in Venice, was a turning point in his career and opera seria. It was performed at La Scala Milan not long after the World Premiere in Venice in 1813 and in Frankfurt for the first time, in 1817. The score's full of characteristic inspirational melodies and vocal virtuosic demands, marking the transition from 18th century opera seria to 19th century bel canto. Tancredi's cavatina „Di tanti palpiti“ was particularly popular, and whistled everywhere. The opera combines heroic passion with heartfelt lyricism, confirming Rossini's genius for shaping grand dramatic scenes.

The libretto by **Gaetano Rossi** is based on Voltaire's tragedy *Tanocrède*, written in 1760: Feeling under threat from external forces the Senate in Syracuse passes a draconian law, sentencing to death anybody found guilty of conspiring with the enemy. Argirio and his rival Orbazzano settle an old feud; Argirio promising him the hand of his daughter Amenaide as a token of this new alliance. But she's secretly in love with Tancredi, who was banished from the city long ago. An intercepted letter from her is misconstrued, and her father signs her death warrant ...

The conductor is **Giuliano Carella**, a regular guest at leading Opera Houses around the world, back in Frankfurt where he has conducted *Stiffelio*, *I vespri siciliani*, *Anna Bolena* (in concert), *La traviata* and a new production of *Bianca e Falliero*. His repertoire ranges from Giovanni Paisiello to Lorenzo Ferrero and includes important mainstream works alongside many less well-known Italian operas. **Manuel Schmitt** stages the work, back in Frankfurt where he directed a Benjamin Britten *Prodigal Son / Burning Fiery Furnace* double bill in the Bockenheimer Depot. He worked recently at places including the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich and Staatstheater in Nürnberg. **Theo Lebow**, Argirio, enjoyed great success earlier this season as Nicea in Agostino Steffani's rarely performed baroque opera *Amor vien dal destino* and the Shepherd in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*. **Bianca Tognocchi** is Amenaide. This soprano recently thrilled audiences here with Despina and Aspasia in new productions of *Così fan tutte* and *Mitridate, re di Ponto*. Orbazzano is sung by Ensemble Member **Kihwan Sim**, who sang Escamillo and Uncle Bonze in *Carmen* and *Madama Butterfly* earlier this season. The Portuguese mezzo-soprano **Cláudia Ribas** sings the title role. This former Member of the Opera Studio joins the Ensemble in Frankfurt next season. And **Clara Kim** (Loredana) – who was also in the Opera Studio, is back again as a guest. **Ruby Dibble** (Isaura), from the Opera Studio, completes the cast.

Premiere: Sunday June 7th 2026, at 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: June 11th, 17th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 28th (15.30hrs) 2026

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.