

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt  
**THE ENCHANTRESS (TSCHARODEJKA)**  
 Opera in four acts by Peter I. Tchaikovsky  
 Text by Ippolit W. Shpazhinsky  
 Sung in Russian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Valentin Uryupin  
 Director: Vasily Barkhatov  
 Choreographer: Gal Fefferman  
 Set Designer: Christian Schmidt  
 Costume Designer: Kirsten Dephoff  
 Lighting Designer: Olaf Winter  
 Video: Christian Borchers  
 Chorus Master: Tilman Michael  
 Dramaturge: Zsolt Horpácsy

Nastasia: Asmik Grigorian  
 Prince: Iain MacNeil  
 Princess: Claudia Mahnke  
 Prince Juri, their son: Alexander Mikhailov  
 Mamyrow / Kudma: Frederic Jost  
 Nenila: Zanda Švēde  
 Iwan Schuran: Božidar Smiljanić

Foka: Dietrich Volle  
 Polja: Nombulelo Yende  
 Balakin: Jonathan Abernethy  
 Potap: Pilgoo Kang  
 Lukasch: Kudaibergen Abildin  
 Kitschiga: Magnús Baldvinsson  
 Paisi: Michael McCown and others

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus and Extras; Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

The theatre on Willy-Brandt-Platz is staging another lesser known work which has never been performed in Frankfurt before: *The Enchantress (Tscharodejka)* by **Peter I. Tchaikovsky** (1840-1893). Based on Ippolit W. Shpazhinsky's play by the same name, it was composed between *Eugene Onegin* and *Pique Dame* and performed for the first time on November 1st 1887 at the Mariinski Theatre in St. Petersburg. Tchaikovsky was dismayed by the audience's lukewarm response to his seventh opera, which he considered his best.

Nastasia is a widow known as Kuma. Her hostelry is a meeting point for people from all walks of life. She fascinates the Prince and publicly ridicules his advisor Mamyrow, who tells the Princess that her husband has fallen for the landlady. The noblewoman threatens to have Kuma thrown into prison while Juri, the royal couple's son, plans to kill the supposed sorceress. The prince proclaims his love for Kuma, but she's in love with his son, who she persuades not to kill her. Juri reciprocates Kuma's feelings and they plan to flee together. But the Princess, hellbent on revenge, poisons her rival, who dies in her beloved's arms. The consumed by jealousy Prince kills his son and goes mad.

The production is led by the Russian conductor **Valentin Uryupin**, who made his debut in Frankfurt with a Stravinsky / Tchaikovsky *Oedipus Rex / Iolanta* double bill in 2021/22. This former chief conductor and artistic director of New Opera Moscow returned to the Bregenz Festival last summer for Giordano's *Siberia*, which was directed by his countryman **Vasily Barkhatov**, working in Frankfurt for the first time, after a production of Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre* was cancelled by corona, on this production. He recently directed Korngold's *The Dead City* at New Opera Moscow and will be staging a new *Simon Boccanegra* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin. Back in Frankfurt for her third title role is the Lithuanian soprano **Asmik Grigorian**, who gave a wonderful recital here last season and can be heard in Frankfurt in December repeating her portrayal of Manon Lescaut. Plans this season include her return to the Vienna and Berlin state operas for Jenůfa. The Prince is sung by the Canadian baritone **Iain MacNeil** (role debut), who joined the Ensemble in 2019/20 and enjoyed a triumph last season with the title role in Dallapiccola's *Ulisse*. Performing in Frankfurt for the first time is the Russian tenor **Alexander Mikhailov** (Prince Juri), who sang Vasilli (*Siberia*) at the Bregenz Festival. Recent highlights for Kammersängerin **Claudia Mahnke** (The Princess) were Judith (*Bluebeard's Castle*) in Frankfurt and Magdalene (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) at the Met in New York – a role she's currently singing here. Nearly all the other roles are being performed by **Members (or former Members) of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble and Opera Studio**.

**Premiere:** Sunday December 4th 2022, 18hrs in the Opera House

**Further performances:** December 11th (18hrs), 14th, 18th (18hrs), 21st, 30th 2022, January 8th (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](http://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](mailto:holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de).