

Premiere in the Main House

### GESANG DER GEISTER ÜBER DEN WASSERN

(*Song of the Spirits over the Waters*) for eight male voices and low strings by Franz Schubert \*

**VIER GESÄNGE** (*Four Songs*) for female chorus, 2 horns and harp by Johannes Brahms \*

**TRAUERMUSIK** (*Funeral Music*) for string orchestra by Witold Lutosławski

\* Sung in German with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Sebastian Weigle

Chorus Master: Tilman Michael

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus; Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester

### THE MEDIUM

Tragedy in two acts by Gian Carlo Menotti

Sung in English with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Sebastian Weigle

Director: Hans Walter Richter

Set Designer: Kaspar Glarner

Costume Designer: Cornelia Schmidt

Lighting Designer: Jan Hartmann

Dramaturge: Mareike Wink

Madame Flora: Dshamilja Kaiser / Claire Barnett-Jones

Monica: Gloria Rehm / Angela Vallone

Mrs. Gobineau: Barbara Zechmeister

Mr. Gobineau: Simon Neal / Dietrich Volle

Mrs. Nolan: Kelsey Lauritano

Toby: Marek Löcker

Oper Frankfurt's Extras; Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester

When the first performances in Frankfurt of *The Medium* by **Gian Carlo Menotti** (1911-2007), paired with Bruno Maderna's *Satyricon*, opened in the Bockenheimer Depot at the end of the 2018/19 season, nobody expected to see **Hans Walter Richter's** successful production again so soon. But when restrictions were imposed on rehearsal and performance conditions because of the corona virus and it was obvious that the 2020/21 season could not open as planned with György Ligeti's large scale opera *Le Grand Macabre*, a work from the repertoire was needed that could be performed meeting these conditions. Menotti's *Medium* was chosen, and will be performed – without *Satyricon* – in the Main House for the first time together with works for chorus and orchestra by **Franz Schubert** (1797-1828) – not on October 4th 2020 –, **Johannes Brahms** (1833-1897) and **Witold Lutosławski** (1913-1994). This also gives the participating collectives the chance of performing again in public and makes this a New Production. It also offers people who were not able to get tickets for this successful production when it was performed in the Depot the possibility of seeing it at last, especially as there are sometimes two performances on one day.

Our audiences can look forward to a top class production, which received very good reviews. The Darmstädter Echo wrote: „Hans Walter Richter managed to conjure up psychological intensity, he has a knack for using just the right amount of humour and wit, while the tragedy runs its relentless course.“ In this exciting work Madame Flora earns her living by pulling the wool over her clients' eyes during seances. She is helped by her naive daughter Monica and Toby, a mute orphan. But when it seems that Flora is being haunted by a real ghost, things start going badly wrong...

It is led by Frankfurt's General Music Director **Sebastian Weigle**, making his first appearance in the new season in his Home House. The German mezzo-soprano **Dshamilja Kaiser**, a Member of the Ensemble at Oper Bonn since 2017/18, is back in Frankfurt, where she made her very successful house debut in 2018/19 singing Adalgisa in Bellini's *Norma*. In some performances this role will be sung by her British colleague **Claire Barnett-Jones**. The recipient of the Harewood Artists scholarship at English National Opera in London sings for the first time at the house at Willy-Brandt-Platz. In 2017 **Gloria Rehm** (Monica) was awarded a renowned FAUST-Prize for her portrayal of Marie in Zimmermann's *Die Soldaten* at the International May Festival in Wiesbaden. This German coloratura soprano is known to audiences in Frankfurt as Blonde (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail* 2017) and Königin der Nacht (*Die Zauberflöte* 2018). In addition to his close links to the Deutsche Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf-Duisburg and Oper Leipzig, the British baritone **Simon Neal** is also a regular guest in Frankfurt, where recent roles have included the Forester in Janáček's *Das schlaue Fuchslein* / *The Cunning Little Vixen* in 2015/16. The other roles, some doubled up, are nearly all sung by **Members of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble**.

**Premiere:** Sunday September 13th 2020, at 17.00hrs and 20.30hrs in the Opera House

**Further performances:** September 17th (19.30hrs), 19th (17.00hrs and 20.30hrs), 25th (17.00hrs and 20.30hrs), October 1st (19.30hrs), 4th (15.30hrs and 19.00hrs), 8th (19.30hrs), 10th (17.00hrs and 20.30hrs), 17th (17.00hrs and 20.30hrs) 2020

**Tickets cost:** € 15 to € 182 (with a 12.5% pre-booking fee when not purchased direct from the theatre)

Tickets can be obtained from August 31st 2020 on 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)