

Premiere / First ever staged performance in Frankfurt
DON PERLIMPLÍN'S LOVE FOR BELISA IN HIS GARDEN
(IN SEINEM GARTEN LIEBT DON PERLIMPLÍN BELISA)

Four scenes from an erotic comic strip
 as a chamber play by Wolfgang Fortner
 Text by Federico García Lorca
 Sung in German with German surtitles

Conductor: Takeshi Moriuchi
 Director: Dorothea Kirschbaum
 Set Designer: Christoph Fischer
 Costume Designer: Henriette Hübschmann
 Choreographer: Gal Fefferman
 Lighting Designer: Jonathan Pickers
 Dramaturge: Konrad Kuhn

Don Perlimplín: Sebastian Geyer
 Belisa: Karolina Bengtsson
 Marcolfa: Karolina Makuła
 Belisa's Mother: Anna Nekhames
 First Goblin: Idil Kutay
 Second Goblin: Ursula Hensges
 Harpsichord: Anne Larlee
 and others

Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Wolfgang Fortner (1907–1987) set Federico García Lorca's chamber play by the same name to music in 1962 for the Schwetzingen Festival, creating suggestive music in keeping with the subject matter. The work's characterised by fragrant sound more than structured twelve-tone music. This charming, all too seldom performed work these days, is being staged in Frankfurt for the first time, in the Bockenheimer Depot.

Story: Wealthy bachelor Don Perlimplín is egged on by his housekeeper Marcolfa to marry in old age. She offers him the young, beautiful Belisa, whose erotic needs the Don is unable to satisfy. A secret lover turns up. What begins as a classic comedy turns into a multi-layered, verging on the surreal, psychological drama.

The performance is conducted by **Takeshi Moriuchi**, head coach at Oper Frankfurt since 2018/19. He made his debut here in 2019/20, with Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* (during the first run of a New Production), followed in 2022/23 by performances of a new Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, and the first revival of Rimsky-Korsakow's *The Night before Christmas* and performances of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* in 2023/24. This pianist, born in Tokyo, went on to study conducting at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg. His mentor, Dennis Russell Davis, invited him to join the Landestheater in Linz in 2009/10. He celebrated his debut in Japan in 2016, with Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Nikikai Opera Foundation with the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra. **Dorothea Kirschbaum** worked as a director's assistant and rehearsing revivals at Oper Frankfurt from 2013 to 2019, where she staged New Productions of Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and Peter Eötvös' *Tri Sestri (Three Sisters)*. Other recent productions have included Verdi's *Rigoletto* in Krefeld-Mönchengladbach and Humperdinck's *Hänsel und Gretel* in Pforzheim. **Sebastian Geyer** (Don Perlimplín, role debut), a Member of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble since 2010, has sung many roles for the company. His repertoire includes Purcell's Aeneas, Handel's Cesare and Curio (*Giulio Cesare*), Telemann's Orpheus, Creonte (*L'Oronoea*, CD OehmsClassic) and Mozart's Don Giovanni, Guglielmo, Almaviva and Papageno. The Swedish soprano **Karolina Bengtsson** (Belisa) left the Opera Studio to join the Ensemble this season. Her roles for the company have included Pamina and Papagena (*Die Zauberflöte*), First Maid in Strauss' *Daphne* and Silvia in a new Mozart's *Ascanio in Alba*. Polish mezzo-soprano **Karolina Makuła** (Marcolfa) was a Member of the Opera Studio in Frankfurt from 2019 to 2022, returning as a Guest in 2022/23 for Tisbe (*La Cenerentola*), A Spanish Woman (*Der ferne Klang*) and Amando in a new Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre* in 2023/24. They are joined by Ensemble Member **Anna Nekhames** (Belisa's mother), new to the Studio **Idil Kutay** (First Goblin) and **Ursula Hensges** (Second Goblin) as a Guest.

Premiere / First ever staged performance in Frankfurt: Friday March 22nd 2024, at 19hrs in the Bockenheimer Depot

Further performances: March 24th, 27th, 30th, April 2nd, 4th, 7th (15.30hrs) 2024
 Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19hrs

Tickets cost: € 20 to € 80 (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.