

Premiere

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

Opera in four acts by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte after Pierre Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais

Sung in Italian with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Thomas Guggeis / Alden Gatt (December 28th, 30th 2023, January 5th, 18th 2024)

Director: Tilmann Köhler

Set Designer: Karoly Risz

Costume Designer: Susanne Uhl

Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein

Choreographic collaboration: Gal Fefferman

Chorus Master: Tilman Michael

Dramaturge: Zsolt Horpácsy

Figaro: Kihwan Sim / Božidar Smiljanić (December 2023, January 2024)

Susanna: Elena Villalón

Count Almaviva: Danylo Matviienko / Domen Križaj (December 2023, January 2024)

Countess Almaviva: Adriana González / Verity Wingate (December 2023, January 2024)

Cherubino: Kelsey Lauritano / Helene Feldbauer (December 2023, January 2024)

Marcellina: Cecelia Hall / Katharina Magiera (October 21st, December 2023, January 2024)

Bartolo: Donato Di Stefano / Thomas Faulkner (December 2023, January 2024)

Basilio, Don Curzio: Magnus Dietrich

Barbarina: Idil Kutay amongst others

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus; Frankfurt Opern und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Le nozze di Figaro revealed considerable courage on the part of **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756-1791): because Beaumarchais' *La folle journée, ou Le mariage de Figaro*, on which it was based, was banned in France and Vienna. His librettist Lorenzo da Ponte deployed diplomatic artistry to defuse the politically explosive nature of the play. When the World Premiere took place on May 1st 1786 at the Burgtheater in Vienna its impact was not quite as shocking as the play's – but its dig at the nobility was clear. Their adaptation shows a timelessly relevant human comedy, which was initially met with disdain, for the above reason, but gradually became one of Mozart's best loved operas. This New Production follows Guillaume Bernardi's, which opened at Oper Frankfurt in 2006/07.

As the day of Figaro and Susanna's wedding dawns Count Almaviva is determined to avail himself of his right to his „feudal first night“. This turns the lovers, his wife Rosina and almost all the other inhabitants in the castle against him, culminating in a day full of intrigues, disguises, confusion and misunderstandings, at the end of which the Count is left suitably chastened ...

This New Production is led by the 1993 in Dachau born conductor **Thomas Guggeis**, who took up the post of General Music Director of Oper Frankfurt at the start of the 2023/24 season. He made his House Debut with Mozart's *Requiem* in May 2021, which was followed by Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*. He was appointed Staatskapellmeister of the Staatsoper in Berlin in 2019/20. After studying in Munich and Milan and assisting at Berlin's Staatsoper, he worked as Kapellmeister at the Staatsoper in Stuttgart from 2018 to 2020. He conducts regularly at the Vienna State Opera and recently made his debuts at the Metropolitan Opera and Santa Fe Festival – *Der Fliegende Holländer*, both times – and his debut at La Scala Milan is planned for February 2024. Later performances in the first run of Mozart's *Figaro* are conducted by the American **Alden Gatt**, who joins the company this season as Kapellmeister and Assistant to the GMD. Director **Tilmann Köhler**, who staged many plays before moving into opera, is a popular guest in Frankfurt, where he returns in early 2024 for Alexander Zemlinsky's *Der Traumgöрге / George the Dreamer*. Led by **Kihwan Sim** (Figaro), **Elena Villalón** (Susanna), **Danylo Matviienko** (Count Almaviva) and **Kelsey Lauritano** (Cherubino) the casts are made up predominantly of **Members (and former Members) of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble and Opera Studio**. Guest artist include the Italian bass **Donato Di Stefano** (Bartolo) and Guatemalan soprano **Adriana González**, who made her debut in Germany at Oper Frankfurt as the Countess in 2020/21. Now she's back to sing a role again with which she enjoyed great success at the 2023 Salzburg Festival.

Premiere: Sunday October 1st 2023, at 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: October 6th, 8th (18hrs), 12th, 14th, 21st, December 28th, 30th (18hrs) 2023,
January 5th, 7th (18hrs), 18th, 21st (18hrs) 2024

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.