

Premiere / First ever performance in Frankfurt

ULISSE

Opera with a prologue and two acts by Luigi Dallapiccola

Libretto by the composer

German translation from the Italian by Carl-Heinrich Kreith

Sung in German with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Francesco Lanzillotta

Director: Tatjana Gürbaca

Set and Lighting Designer: Klaus Grünberg

Costume Designer: Silke Willrett

Chorus Master: Tilman Michael

Dramaturge: Maximilian Enderle

Odysseus: Iain MacNeil

Circe / Melantho: Katharina Magiera

Calypso / Penelope: Juanita Lascarro

Demodocus / Teiresias: Yves Saelens

Nausicaa: Sarah Aristidou

Alkinoos: Andreas Bauer Kanabas

Anticleia: Claudia Mahnke

Antinoos: Danylo Matviienko

Eurymachos: Jaeil Kim

Peisandros: Sebastian Geyer

Eumaeus: Brian Michael Moore

Telemachos: Dmitry Egorov

1st Maid: Marvic Monreal

2nd Maid: Stefanie Heidinger

A Lotus Eater: Julia Bell

Oper Frankfurt's Chorus and Extras

Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

The World Premiere of *Ulisse* by **Luigi Dallapiccola** (1904-1975) took place on September 22nd 1968 at the Deutsche Oper Berlin. The Italian composer was fascinated by the Odysseus myth throughout his life, so he wrote the libretto for his last opera himself, inspired by Dante Alighieri's *Divina Commedia* and based on countless versions of the story. Odysseus emerges as a torn individual constantly searching for (self)discovery. A network of twelve-tone series runs through the work, which took many years to finish, which all stem from an original series called „Mare I“. The story's 13 episodes are characterised by their own sound: central to the symmetrically arranged sequence of images is the darkly orchestrated Hades scene.

Stranded in the land of the Phaeacians, Odysseus looks back on stages of his odyssey: the seductive self-forgetful world of the Lotophagi, his intellectually stimulating liaison with the sorceress Circe and his journey to Hades, where he encountered his dead mother. He is unrecognised and ridiculed as a „nobody“ when he finally gets home to Ithaca. The pain of losing his identity drives him to take revenge: he kills the suitors courting his wife Penelope before setting off on his last expedition. Alone, out at sea, he thinks, at last, he recognises the existence of a higher plane where his inner ambivalences are irrelevant.

The Italian **Francesco Lanzillotta** is back at Opera Frankfurt, where he appeared for the first time in 2018/19 conducting Verdi's *La traviata* (in concert). This former Music Director of the Macerata Festival recently made his debut at the Bayerische Staatsoper with *La Bohème* and work this season includes appearances at the Vienna State Opera and Teatro Massimo in Palermo. **Tatjana Gürbaca** is working at the house on Willy-Brandt-Platz for the first time. Sought-after throughout Europe, this director enjoyed great success with Dallapiccola's one-act *Il prigioniero* at the Volksoper in Vienna in 2003. The title role (role debut) is being sung by the Canadian baritone **Iain MacNeil**, who joined the Ensemble in 2019/20 and recently thrilled audiences here with the Minstrel in *Königskinder*. The Belgian tenor **Yves Saelens** (Demodocus / Teiresias) sang Bajazet for the company in Handel's *Tamerlano* in the Bockenheimer Depot in 2019/20 (revival December 2022). The French / Cyprian soprano **Sarah Aristidou** (Nausicaa) made her debut in Frankfurt with Zerbinetta (*Ariadne auf Naxos*; in concert) in 2020/21. Currently singing the Sorceress (*Dido and Aeneas*) here is prize-winning St. Petersburg born countertenor **Dmitry Egorov** (Telemachos). All other roles are sung by **Members, (and former Members) of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble, Opera Studio and Chorus**.

Premiere: Sunday June 26th 2022, at 18.00hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: July 1st, 7th, 10th (18.00hrs), 15th, 18th, 21st 2022

Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19.00hrs

Tickets cost: € 15 to € 182 (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.