

Premiere

THE PRINCE OF HOMBURG (DER PRINZ VON HOMBURG)

Opera in three acts by Hans Werner Henze and Ingeborg Bachmann

Text by Ingeborg Bachmann based on Heinrich von Kleist

Sung in German with German and English surtitles

Conductor: Takeshi Moriuchi

Director: Jens-Daniel Herzog

Set and Costume Designer: Johannes Schütz

Associate Costume Designer: Wicke Naujoks

Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein

Dramaturge: Mareike Wink

Prince of Homburg: Domen Krizaj

Prince-electoral of Brandenburg: Yves Saelens

Princess Natalie: Magdalena Hinterdobler

Graf Hohenzollern: Magnus Dietrich

Princess-electoral: Annette Schön Müller

Feldmarschall Dörfling: Iain MacNeil

Colonel Kottwitz: Sebastian Geyer

Three officers: Andrew Kim, Božidar Smiljanić, Alfred Reiter

Sergeant: Jarrett Porter

Three ladies-in-waiting: Juanita Lascarro, Cecelia Hall,
Judita Nagyová

1st Orderly: Istvan Balota

2nd Orderly: Leon Tchakachow

Frankfurt Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Hans Werner Henze (1926-2012) and **Ingeborg Bachmann** (1926-1973) met at a Group 47 meeting and worked together for more than a decade. For their opera *Der Prinz von Homburg* they came up with their own version of Kleist's 1809/10 play, which fluctuates between melancholy, heroism and the analysis of it, which has been interpreted many times according to political circumstances. The opera's focus moves from the military to the humane, from the historically correct to the timeless. The music – written for a large chamber orchestra – expands on the libretto in two juxtaposing spheres: a lyrical traditional world of dreams, which flickers strangely out of focus through the use of a mixture of sounds, and a tightly constructed, including twelve-tone, and serialized world of prevailing order, underlining the opera's probing questions about the position assigned to a dreamer in a strictly regulated society, the relationship between the individual and a controlling system and the compatibility of emotions and laws.

Fehrbellin, 1675: In a dream Prince Friedrich von Homburg sees himself as the worthy victor of an imminent battle and is ridiculed by everybody. The actual battle will not begin until the Prince-electoral gives the explicit order for it to do so. But Homburg high-handedly orders an attack that could lead to victory. He is sentenced to death for insubordination. The Prince-electoral's niece, who is in love with the Prince, begs her uncle to be merciful, but he will only pardon him if he finds the judge's verdict unjust ...

Takeshi Moriuchi, head of coaching at Oper Frankfurt since 2018/19, has since proved to be multitalented musician. Alongside helping singers learn their roles he has conducted operas, concerts and played in recitals, most recently leading last season's New Production of Fortner's *Don Perlimplin's Love for Belisa in his Garden* in the Bockenheimer Depot and jumping in at short notice to sing the title role in a performance of Zemlinsky's *Der Traumgöрге / George the Dreamer* – something he has done several times to make sure the show goes on. **Jens-Daniel Herzog**, Intendant of the Staatstheater in Nürnberg since 2018/19, started working as a director in the early 1990s. His career has taken him to leading theatres and opera houses including the Burgtheater in Vienna, Zurich Opera, Schauspiel Frankfurt, the Hamburg State Opera and Semperoper in Dresden. Now he's back in Frankfurt, where he directed *Lohengrin* (2009) and *Les vêpres siciliennes* (2013). Ensemble Member **Domen Krizaj** sings the title role in this New Production. This young Slovenian baritone enjoyed great success here earlier this summer singing Wolfram in Matthew Wild's production of *Tannhäuser*. Most of the other roles are sung by **Members of the Ensemble and Opera Studio**, and guests like **Yves Saelens** (Prince-electoral of Brandenburg) and **Annette Schön Müller** (Princess-electoral).

Premiere: Sunday September 22nd 2024, at 18hrs in the Opera House

Further performances: September 28th, October 5th (18hrs), 12th, 19th, 25th, November 2nd 2024
Unless otherwise stated, all performances begin at 19.30hrs

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.