



Semperoper
Dresden

Semperoper Dresden: Premiere of »Il viaggio a Reims/The Journey to Reims« on 28 September 2019

PRESS RELEASE

First premiere of the 2019/20 season on 28 September 2019 – Laura Scozzi dissects European sensibilities

Dresden, 13 September 2019. Gioachino Rossini's opera »Il viaggio a Reims/The Journey to Reims« launches the series of premieres for the 2019/20 season at the Semperoper Dresden on Saturday, 28 September 2019.

The origin of Rossini's opera was a royal commission to celebrate the coronation of Charles X. Demanding a large group of soloists, this unusual work centres on a group of European »lone travellers« during an unexpected break in their journey to Reims. After various upsets, the story concludes with a multi-national banquet. First performed in 1825, this masterpiece will now be heard for the first time in Dresden, when opera lovers can look forward to the »Gran pezzo concertato a 14 voci«, an extraordinary fourteen-part *a cappella* ensemble section, along with some brilliant coloratura singing.

Under conductor **Francesco Lanzilotta**, the Staatskapelle Dresden will accompany a star-studded array of soloists including **Elena Gorshunova**, **Maria Kataeva** and **Tuuli Takala** as well as **Maurizio Muraro**, **Edgardo Rocha** and **Georg Zeppenfeld**. With this production, the State Opera Chorus is bidding farewell to its long-time choral director, **Jörn Hinnerk Andresen**, who in October will take up a professorship at the Mozarteum Salzburg.

Back in 2012, Italian director **Laura Scozzi**, who currently resides in Paris, staged Rossini's colourful multi-national *dramma giocoso* for the Nuremberg State Theatre as an absurd satire on the European project featuring well-known waxwork figures. For the Dresden production, she follows **Peter Theiler's** invitation to develop this idea further. Scozzi dissects our European sensibilities by adapting this rather nebulous character study of a multicultural group of travellers to reflect current political trends. Now beginning his second season as managing director, Peter Theiler intends this production for the Semperoper Dresden to extend the notion of a music theatre rooted in tradition but with a modern perspective, thereby exploring eternally relevant social themes at the highest artistic level.

Gioachino Rossini »Il viaggio a Reims/The Journey to Reims«

Premiere at 6 pm on Saturday, 28 September 2019, in the Semperoper Dresden.

Further performances on 3, 6, 9, 20, 25 October and 4 November 2019.

An introductory talk on the work begins 45 minutes before each performance.

Tickets available from the daytime box office in the Schinkelwache on Theaterplatz (T +49 (0)351 4911 705) as well as online. See our website for more details: semperoper.de

Please direct your request for press tickets (with details of your journalistic assignment, the media outlet and expected publication date) as well as press inquiries and interview requests to: presse@semperoper.de

Semperoper Dresden

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