



Semperoper Dresden

Premiere of »L'Orfeo« on 30 April 2023

PRESS RELEASE



Premiere poster for »L'Orfeo«

©Semperoper Dresden/photo: Rosemarie Trockel, Courtesy Sprüth Magers, VGBild-Kunst Bonn 2022

Nikolaus Habjan stages the Semperoper's first production of »L'Orfeo« by Claudio Monteverdi – star tenor Rolando Villazón to perform the title role – house debut of the lauten compagney BERLIN under music director Wolfgang Katschner

Dresden, 5 April 2023. Previously scheduled for the 2020/21 season, Claudio Monteverdi's »L'Orfeo« will now premiere this season at the Semperoper. On 30 April 2023, Graz-born director Nikolaus Habjan and his team will transport the Dresden audience to the underworld of Greek mythology using an exciting and atmospheric mix of singers and puppets.

The multi-talented Habjan, who has won awards for his achievements in theatre direction and the performing arts, will explore the emotional complexity of Monteverdi's work using life-size moving figures alongside the singers to perfectly embody the various characters. Austrian stage designer, director and producer Jakob Brossmann has created the spectacular set design for the Dresden production, which provides the ideal backdrop for the costumes by Congolese-born freelance designer Cedric Mpaka.

Rolando Villazón, performing the title role, will be joined by Anastasiya Taratorkina as Euridice. Bogdan Talos will make his house debut in the role of Caronte while Eric Jurenas – also making his house debut – will perform the role of La Speranza for the first time. Monteverdi's score will be performed on period instruments by the lauten compagney BERLIN under the baton of their artistic director Wolfgang Katschner, himself a lute player and an internationally renowned authority on early music. The ensemble and its conductor are also making their first appearance at the Semperoper.

Based on the Greek legend of Orpheus, this *favola in musica* combines vocal and instrumental performance with dance. Premiered more than 400 years ago in Mantua, »L'Orfeo« is considered to be the earliest example of true opera. This is the Semperoper's very first production of Monteverdi's Baroque masterpiece.

Under the motto »Where such great beauty dwells is paradise«, the Semperoper is devoting a special evening to works by Monteverdi written around the time of »L'Orfeo«. On Wednesday, 3 May

2023, Rolando Villazón will be joined by Nikola Hillebrand, Štěpánka Pučálková and Joseph Dennis to perform secular and sacred compositions by the composer, accompanied once again by the lauten compagney BERLIN under the baton of Wolfgang Katschner.

»L'Orfeo« by Claudio Monteverdi
Staged by Nikolaus Habjan

Premiere at 7 pm on Sunday, 30 April 2023

Additional performances in May 2023 as indicated in the monthly schedule

Featuring Rolando Villazón, Anastasiya Taratorkina, Bogdan Talos and Eric Jurenas.
The lauten compagney BERLIN will be conducted by Wolfgang Katschner. Also on stage: the State Opera Chorus. The puppeteers are Johann Ebert, Angelo Konzett, Manuela Linshalm and Anderson Pinheiro da Silva.

Project partners for this production are the Sparkassen-Finanzgruppe Sachsen, the Ostsächsische Sparkasse Dresden, the Sparkassen-Versicherung Sachsen and the LBBW.

»Where such great beauty dwells is paradise«

An Evening for Monteverdi – with Rolando Villazón and the lauten compagney BERLIN

At 8 pm on 3 May 2023 in the Semperoper

With Rolando Villazón, Nikola Hillebrand, Štěpánka Pučálková and Joseph Dennis
Performed by the lauten compagney BERLIN under the direction of Wolfgang Katschner.

Tickets for all performances can be purchased online or from the Schinkelwache box office on Theaterplatz (T +49 (0)351 4911 705).

Requests for review tickets (stating the editorial brief and likely publication dates) should be sent to: presse@semperoper.de.

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