

# STAATSOPER STUTT GART

Press Release

Stuttgart, 26-10-2021

## Prelude to the new Stuttgart *Ring*

The rediscovery of Richard Wagner's *Ring of the Nibelung* under the musical direction of Cornelius Meister starts off with the premiere of *Das Rheingold* directed by Stephan Kimmig

At Staatsoper Stuttgart, Stephan Kimmig's production of Richard Wagner's *Das Rheingold* premieres on 21 November at 6 pm, conducted by General Music Director Cornelius Meister. Most roles are taken on by the Staatsoper's singer ensemble with numerous members making their role debut – including Goran Jurić as Wotan, Kammersänger Matthias Klink as Loge, Rachael Wilson as Fricka, Stine Marie Fischer as Erda as well as David Steffens and Kammersänger Adam Palka as Fasolt and Fafner. The English Baritone Leigh Melrose makes his Stuttgart debut with the role of Alberich.

Stephan Kimmig depicts the "eve" of the *Ring* as a clownish, monstrous and nightmarishly nocturnal endgame. What drives Wagner's mythical personnel in the hunt for the ring is finally revealed in a burnt-out set of former illusions, a night circus stranded in the middle of nowhere: The protagonists' obsessions with their own sense of superiority and their fear of decline. "The anti-capitalism in *Rheingold* is evident, but merely lecturing from the stage with a raised forefinger is too simplistic – and most people know that. But what are the alternatives? Are there other possibilities for progression and development? These are the issues that arise from Wagner's work and that today's generation also has to face", says Stephan Kimmig about his work on *Rheingold*. Therefore, and despite everything, three self-confident Rhinemaidens unswervingly search for ways out of the various destructive and predominantly masculine ego trips.

After 20 years and beginning with this season, Staatsoper Stuttgart will stage a new *Ring cycle*. The concept of having each part of the tetralogy created by a different director – first realized in 1999/2000 – will be continued and further developed: Following Stephan Kimmig's interpretation of *Rheingold*, each act of *Die Walküre* will be conceived by different artists in April 2022. In 2022/23, the *Ring* will be concluded with the revival of Jossi Wieler's and Sergio Morabito's *Siegfried* and a new production of *Götterdämmerung*.

Accompanying the *Rheingold* premiere, StadtPalais Stuttgart displays an exhibition called *Winter-Bayreuth*: From 1954-1966, Wieland Wagner shaped the so-called "Stuttgart style" by turning Staatsoper Stuttgart into a kind of workshop for the Bayreuth Festival.

# STAATSOPER STUTT GART

## PREMIERE

### Richard Wagner *Das Rheingold*

Sunday, 21 November 2021, 6 pm

Introduction on 7 November 2021

#### Further performances

24/ 27 November 2021

12/ 17/ 19 December 2021

Conductor **Cornelius Meister**  
Director **Stephan Kimmig**  
Stage Designer **Katja Haß**  
Costume Designer **Anja Rabes**  
Light Designer **Gerrit Jurda**  
Video Designer **Rebecca Riedel**  
Choreographer **Bahar Meriç**  
Dramaturg **Miron Hakenbeck**

Wotan **Goran Jurić**  
Donner **Paweł Konik**  
Froh **Moritz Kallenberg**  
Loge **Matthias Klink**  
Alberich **Leigh Melrose**  
Mime **Elmar Gilbertsson**  
Fasolt **David Steffens**  
Fafner **Adam Palka**  
Fricka **Rachael Wilson**  
Freia **Esther Dierkes**  
Erda **Stine Marie Fischer**  
Woglinde **Tamara Banješević**  
Wellgunde **Ida Ränzlöv**  
Floßhilde **Aytaj Shikhalizade**

**Staatsorchester Stuttgart**