

# STAATSOPER STUTT GART

Press Release

Stuttgart, 08-10-20

## PREMIERE

Sunday, 11 October 2020, 6 pm

Further performances

18, 20, 24 October 2020, 7 pm

**Pietro Mascagni / Salvatore Sciarrino**

***Cavalleria rusticana /***

***Luci mie traditrici***

Conductor **Cornelius Meister**

Director **Barbara Frey**

Stage Designer **Martin Zehetgruber**

Costume Designer **Bettina Walter**

Light Designer **Alexander Koppelman**

Chorus Director **Manuel Pujol**

Dramaturg **Miron Hakenbeck, Barbara Eckle**

### **Cavalleria rusticana**

Santuzza **Eva-Maria Westbroek**

Turiddu **Arnold Rutkowski**

Lucia **Dame Rosalind Plowright**

Alfio **Dimitris Tiliakos**

Lola **Ida Ränzlöv**

### **Luci mie traditrici**

Countess Malaspina **Rachael Wilson**

Count Malaspina **Christian Miedl**

The Guest / The Voice behind the scene **Ida Ränzlöv**

A Servant **Elmar Gilbertsson**

**Staatsoperchor Stuttgart**

**Staatsorchester Stuttgart**

# STAATSOPER STUTT GART

## Double-bill programme about jealousy

### **Pietro Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* and Salvatore Sciarrino's *Luci mie traditrici* at Staatsoper Stuttgart**

**The Staatsorchester Stuttgart is conducted by General Music Director Cornelius Meister, the production is staged by Barbara Frey. Eva-Maria Westbroek returns to the Stuttgart stage**

As the season's second premiere, Staatsoper Stuttgart brings to the stage two Italian operas: Barbara Frey's double-bill programme of Pietro Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* and Salvatore Sciarrino's *Luci mie traditrici* premieres on Sunday, 11 October 2020, at 6 pm. Eva-Maria Westbroek – internationally celebrated and ensemble member from 2001 to 2006 – returns as Santuzza, Arnold Rutkowski interprets Turiddu. Further roles are sung by Dame Rosalind Plowright (Lucia), Dimitris Tiliakos (Alfio), Ida Ränzlöv (Lola), Christian Miedl (Count Malaspina) and Rachael Wilson (Countess Malaspina). The Staatsorchester's musical direction as well as the evening's piano sequences are taken on by General Music Director Cornelius Meister. Mascagni's composition will be performed in a new version for chamber orchestra and banda, explicitly rearranged for the occasion by Sebastian Schwab.

With his one act opera *Cavalleria rusticana*, Pietro Mascagni succeeded with creating a masterpiece in the verismo opera style. The libretto is based on a novella by the author Giovanni Verga: Santuzza's fear is being left by her fiancé Turridu for Lola, the wife of the unsuspecting Alfio. During the course of a single morning that fear leads to an act of violence, as men and women, mothers and sons follow a pattern of social behavior which for generations has symbolized the very meaning of honour and faithfulness.

Even one hundred years later, Salvatore Sciarrino raises questions about the sovereignty of the sentient subject with his opera *Luci mie traditrici* (*Oh my betraying eyes*). With a musical idiom that is primarily based on reduction, Sciarrino likewise narrates a story about obsessive jealousy. Distrust and deception between the Count, the countess, their voyeuristic servant and a guest finally lead to a double murder. However, in Sciarrino's musical score poignant silence prevails and the drama about emotional uncertainty and a fatally disintegrating love emerges from the apparent plot. In Stuttgart, the orchestra performs the chamber opera's original version for 21 musicians which first premiered in Schwetzingen in 1998.

Barbara Frey is director and intendant at Schauspielhaus Zürich and was awarded the "Schweizer Theaterpreis" in 2016. She has also staged productions in Hamburg, Berlin, Munich, Salzburg and Vienna. For the Ruhrtriennale's designated intendant, this production represents already her second cooperation with Soprano Eva-Maria Westbroek, following *Jenufa* at Bayerische Staatsoper. *Cavalleria rusticana/Luci mie traditrici* was originally scheduled for the 19/20 season.