

STAATSOPER STUTT GART

Press Release

Stuttgart, 19-10-2020

PREMIERE

Tuesday, 27 October 2020, 7 pm

Further performances

29 October 2020, 7.30 pm

7, 14 November 2020, 7. 30 pm

Das Lied von der Erde

Gustav Mahler / Arnold Schönberg:

Das Lied von der Erde

Elfriede Jelinek: *Die Bienenkönige*

Symphony based on

Hans Bethge's *Die chinesische Flöte*

Chamber orchestra version by Arnold Schönberg,

Completed by Rainer Riehn

Conductor **Cornelius Meister**

Stage Director **David Hermann**

Set and Light Designer **Jo Schramm**

Costume Designers **Claudia Irro, Bettina Werner**

Dramaturg **Ingo Gerlach**

With **Simone Schneider, Evelyn Herlitzius, Thomas Blondelle, Martin**

Gantner as well as **Katja Bürkle**

Staatsorchester Stuttgart

Songs about Finality and Farewell

Staatsoper Stuttgart combines works by Gustav Mahler and Elfriede Jelinek

Conducted by General Music Director Cornelius Meister and directed for the stage by David Hermann with Simone Schneider, Evelyn Herlitzius, Thomas Blondelle and Martin Gantner as singers; Katja Bürkle returns to the Staatstheater Stuttgart with Elfriede Jelinek's prose

Staatsoper Stuttgart performs Gustav Mahler's symphonic song cycle *Das Lied von der Erde* in a staged setting and in combination with Elfriede Jelinek's prose *Die Bienenkönige*. The production by David Hermann premieres on 27 October 2020 at 7 pm. Mahler's songs are interpreted by soloist singers Simone Schneider (Soprano), Evelyn Herlitzius (Soprano), Thomas Blondelle (Tenor) and Martin Gantner (Baritone). Katja Bürkle, long-standing member of both ensembles at Schauspiel Stuttgart and Münchner Kammerspiele and well known for movie and television productions, interprets Elfriede Jelinek's prose.

General Music Director Cornelius Meister takes on the musical direction. The production uses some elements of Jo Schramm's set as well as Claudia Irro's and Bettina Werner's costumes which were designed for Richard Strauss' *Die Frau ohne Schatten* – a production originally scheduled for the same period of time this season and by the same director, David Hermann.

Gustav Mahler commenced composing *Das Lied von der Erde* after a series of personal misfortunes: Following a dispute in spring 1907, Mahler resigned from his position as director at Wiener Hofoper. Later in the same year, his older daughter died from an illness, and he himself was diagnosed with heart valve problems. Consistent with his personal situation, Mahler commenced setting seven of Hans Bethge's collection of poems *Die chinesische Flöte* to music. The collection focuses on life's finality and parting.

For the Stuttgart production, the musicians of Staatsorchester Stuttgart perform the chamber concert version by Arnold Schönberg and Rainer Riehn. The proximity to death which is immanent in Mahler's work, finds an equivalent in Elfriede Jelinek's essay *Die Bienenkönige*. In the production, the 1976 prose is arranged as prologue to Mahler's work and deals with a high-tech civilization's standstill and suffocation as a direct result of its patriarchal and exploitative mechanisms.

Director David Hermann is founding member of the „Akademie Musiktheater heute“, together with Staatsoper intendant Viktor Schoner and conductor Titus Engel. Hermann already has to his name various productions at Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Ruhrtriennale, Oper Frankfurt, Theater Basel and Salzburger Festspiele. At Oper Frankfurt, he was honored with the International Opera Award in the category „Best Rediscovery of the Year 2018“ for his trilogy of one-act-operas by Ernst Krenek. At Staatsoper Stuttgart David Hermann debuts in the 20-21 season with the new production of *Das Lied von der Erde*.