

# STAATSOPER STUTT GART

Press Release

Stuttgart, June 16, 2021

## Lyrical Drama Live-Streamed with Live Audience

Staatsoper Stuttgart presents Jules Massenet's *Werther* in a production by **Felix Rothenhäusler** as the first opera premiere with audience since October last year.

Jules Massenet's *Werther*, directed by Felix Rothenhäusler and team (Set Designer: **Katharina Pia Schütz**, Costume Designer: **Elke von Sivers**) will be performed on the stage of the Stuttgart's historic opera house on Sunday, July 11 2021 at 5:00pm CET, in front of an audience of up to 700 people. The premiere, originally planned for autumn last year, will also be broadcast as a live-stream. The title role of Werther will be sung by internationally acclaimed tenor **Arturo Chacón-Cruz**, ensemble member **Rachael Wilson** will make her role debut as Charlotte. Further role debuts will be made by **Paweł Konik** (Albert), **Shigeo Ishino** (The Bailiff) and **Aoife Gibney** (Sophie). Staatsorchester Stuttgart under the direction of **Marc Piollet** will perform on the stage, rather than in the orchestra pit. Additionally, the Staatsoper Stuttgart Children's Chorus will sing. The live-stream is made possible by LBBW, the digital partner of Staatsoper Stuttgart.

**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's** *The Sorrows of Young Werther* from 1774 is known as an autobiographical collection of letters, as well as a tragic influencer of suicide. French composer **Jules Massenet** reinterpreted this "trendsetter text" that transformed an entire European generation more than 100 years after it was written: with exuberantly emphatic music, he portrays Werther as an emotional terrorist, whose love and eventual obsession for Charlotte leads to tragedy.

*"Massenet makes everything more direct in his opera, he highlights Werther, lets the characters collide in their isolation. The opera is the phase of love that becomes radical. She wants to be nothing but that, and beyond that she does not create a social tableau, there is nothing but the desire, the radical search for a single figure,"* says director Felix Rothenhäusler.

With his team and conductor Marc Piollet, Rothenhäusler has created a musical and scenic space that throws Werther and Charlotte into an arena of emotional frenzy that underlines the intensity and drama that we dream to experience in theatre.

###

Felix Rothenhäusler has been in-house director at the Playhouse at Theater Bremen since the 2012/13 season, where he has staged contemporary novels and series material as well as classical works. In recent years he has also been increasingly active in opera theatre, working on productions of *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Die Fledermaus* at the Bremen Theater.

Marc Piollet was General Music Director of the Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden from 2004 to 2012 and works with major ensembles and renowned opera houses around the world. From 2007 to 2010 he was a guest at the Stuttgart State Opera and conducted productions by *Jenůfa* and *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*, among others. Most recently, he took over the musical direction of *Hoffmann's Stories* in 2019.

# STAATSOPER STUTT GART

## PREMIERE

Sunday, July 11 2021, 5:00pm CET

\*live-streamed on [Staatsoper Stuttgart's YouTube Channel](#)

Further performances: July 13 / 15 / 18 2021

**Jules Massenet**

***Werther***

Lyrical drama in four acts and five pictures

Libretto by Édouard Blau, Paul Milliet and Georges Hartmann based on the epistolary novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther* by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in French.

### ARTISTIC TEAM

Conductor **Marc Piollet**

Director **Felix Rothenhäusler**

Set Designer **Katharina Pia Schütz**

Costume Designer **Elke von Sivers**

Lighting Director **Reinhard Traub**

Children's Chorus **Bernhard Moncado**

Dramaturgy **Franz-Erdmann Meyer-Herder**

### CAST

Werther **Arturo Chacón-Cruz**

Albert **Paweł Konik**

Der Amtmann **Shigeo Ishino**

Charlotte **Rachael Wilson**

Sophie **Aoife Gibney**

Soloists of the **Staatsoper Stuttgart Children's Chorus**  
**Staatsorchester Stuttgart**

Karten:

Online [www.staatsoper-stuttgart.de](http://www.staatsoper-stuttgart.de)

Telefonisch

+49 711 20 20 90

Montag bis Freitag 10 bis 20 Uhr, Samstag 10 bis 18 Uhr

An der Theaterkasse

Königstraße 1D (Theaterpassage), 70173 Stuttgart

Montag bis Freitag 10 bis 19 Uhr, Samstag 10 bis 14 Uhr

Digitalpartner der Staatsoper Stuttgart

# LB BW

Pressekontakte:

Sebastian Ebling, Leiter Presse- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit

T +49 (0) 711 20 32 -515; M +49 (0) 1520 29 43 041

[sebastian.ebling@staatstheater-stuttgart.de](mailto:sebastian.ebling@staatstheater-stuttgart.de)

Helena Rittler, Referentin Pressearbeit/Development

T +49 (0) 711 20 32 -251

[helena.rittler@staatstheater-stuttgart.de](mailto:helena.rittler@staatstheater-stuttgart.de)