

STAATSOPER STUTT GART

Press Release

Stuttgart, 15 February 2024

Dora: World premiere of the new opera by Bernhard Lang and Frank Witzel

"Who the hell is Dora?" The 21st century's dazzling new opera character who does not even shy away from a pact with the devil. The title heroine was invented by **Frank Witzel**, German Book Award winner, and **Bernhard Lang**, composer of *Dora's* rhythmically driven music. Lang's work borrows from the operatic tradition of the great female characters, ranging from Elektra to Brünnhilde. **Staatsoper Stuttgart** celebrates the **world premiere** of the new opera *Dora* on **3 March**. The new production is directed by **Elena Stöppler** and conducted by Australian-Swiss conductor **Elena Schwarz**. Ensemble member **Josefin Feiler** sings and plays the title role. Other cast members include **Marcel Beekman** (Devil) and **Elliott Carlton Hines** (Berthold). In addition, Staatsoper Stuttgart collaborates with the **Neue Vocalsolisten** who embody the part of the Ancient chorus.

Dora is in her mid-twenties and stuck in the shelter of her family circle. Bernhard Lang's music with its **loops and samplings** becomes Dora's accomplice as potentially new paths constantly appear behind an obsessive repetition of what appears to be the same. In his opera about the longing for **something radically new**, Lang also experiments with the sounds of other musical eras. Together with writer Frank Witzel, Lang is laying down **tracks of centuries-old figures, myths and stories**. In her lack of direction, Dora finally resorts to a tried and tested old trick – and summons the **devil**.

Parallel to the run-up for the world premiere, visual advertising all over the City of Stuttgart already asks the question: **Who the hell is Dora?** – thus providing material for speculation. At the same time, Staatsoper Stuttgart organizes **further events** to accompany the new production: in a literary, musical and interactive way: **On 8 February**, Frank Witzel meets writer Ingo Schulze for a discussion at **Literaturhaus Stuttgart**. **At BIX Jazz Club on 20 February**, Bernhard Lang and Frank Witzel present a selection of music tracks that had a significant influence on the creational process of *Dora*. In addition, **Thomas Würdehoff**, publicist and former director of Ludwigsburg Schlossfestspiele, hosts the evening. On both events, Bernhard Lang's two compositions ***The Cold Trip, part I* and *The Cold Trip, part II*** are live performed. Those works are based on Franz Schubert's *Winterreise*. On 26 February, **two radio plays** by Frank Witzel can be listened to on a **nightly bus ride** (unfortunately, only remaining tickets available). And **on 28 February**, Staatsoper Stuttgart's newly founded **literature club** meets for the first time to discuss the libretto to *Dora*.

STAATSOPER STUTTGART

WORLD PREMIERE

Bernhard Lang/Frank Witzel

Dora

Sunday, 3 March 2024, 6 pm

Further performances

8, 15, 22 March 2024

1, 4 April 2024

Conductor **Elena Schwarz**

Director **Elisabeth Stöppler**

Stage and costume designer **Valentin Köhler**

Video designer **Vincent Stefan**

Light designer **Elana Siberski**

Sound (Sound director) **Matthias Schneider-Hollek**

Dramaturg **Miron Hakenbeck**

Dora **Josefin Feiler**

Sister **Shannon Keegan**

Brother **Dominic Große**

Mother **Maria Theresa Ullrich**

Father **Stephan Bootz**

Devil **Marcel Beekman**

Berthold **Elliott Carlton Hines**

Ancient chorus **Neue Vocalsolisten extended**

Staatsorchester Stuttgart

STAATSOPER STUTT GART

Tickets

Online

www.staatsoper-stuttgart.de

Telephone

+49 711 20 20 90

Monday to Friday, 10 am - 8 pm, Saturday 10 am – 6 pm

Box Office

Schauspielhaus, Oberer Schloßgarten 6, 70173 Stuttgart

Monday to Friday, 10 am – 6 pm, Saturday 10 am – 2 pm

Contact

Sebastian Ebling, Pressesprecher

T +49 (0) 711 20 32 -515

M +49 (0) 1520 29 43 041

sebastian.ebling@staatstheater-stuttgart.de