

STAATSOPER STUTT GART

Press Release

Stuttgart, 4 June 2024

Ecstatic nuns, terrorist whales and fragile seducers

Staatsoper Stuttgart's 2024/25 season

- **SANCTA:** A music theatre debut of performance artist Florentina Holzinger with Paul Hindemith's *Sancta Susanna*, among others
- World premiere of a rap, musical and grand opera about the RAF myth (Red Army Fraction): *Der Rote Wal (The Red Whale)*
- New productions under the musical direction of Cornelius Meister: *Idomeneo* (director: Bastian Kraft) and *Casanova* (director: Marco Štorman)
- Further premieres: *Der Spieler (The Gambler)* (ML: Nicholas Carter; R: Axel Ranisch) and *Otello* (ML: Stefano Montanari; R: Silvia Costa)
- Concerts with Maeckes, Tua and others and collaborations with HipHop Open, Pop-Büro Region Stuttgart and Im Wizemann
- JOiN (Junge Oper im Nord): New productions of *The Fairy-Queen* and *Pinocchio's Adventures*
- Family performances of *Der Freischütz*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Rusalka*, *Räuber Hotzenplotz* and *La Fest*

A nun in ecstasy and a red whale, a fragile seducer and an obsessive gambler, a loving father who almost sacrifices his son – these are the characters we encounter at Staatsoper Stuttgart during the coming season. At the joint press conference of Württemberg Staatstheater Stuttgart on 17 May, Opera intendant Viktor Schoner, General music director Cornelius Meister, Chief dramaturg Ingo Gerlach and Keith Bernard Stonum/Martin Mutschler, joint management at Junge Oper im Nord (JOiN), presented the program of the 2024/25 season – a season that carries the ambiguous motto "Of all good spirits...".

With *SANCTA*, *Idomeneo*, *Casanova*, *Der Spieler*, *Otello* and *Der rote Wal* (UA), Staatsoper Stuttgart presents six new productions in the opera house, while JOiN premieres with *The Fairy-Queen* and *Pinocchio's Adventures*. Achim Freyer's production of *Der Freischütz*, Kirill Serebrennikov's interpretation of Strauss' *Salome*, the co-production with the Stuttgart Ballet *Der Tod in Venedig* and Calixto Bieito's *Parsifal* return to the stage. Concerts with pop and rap artists such as Maeckes and Tua and collaborations with HipHop Open, Pop-Büro Region Stuttgart and Im Wizemann are on the list as well as a further collaboration with Ludwigsburg Schlossfestspiele with a new staging of Mozart's *Zaide* at the baroque theatre in Ludwigsburg. The season opens with the crossover concert *Von allen guten Geistern...* with Maeckes as game master and Staatsorchester Stuttgart under the musical direction of Lin Liao.

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"What we at Staatsoper Stuttgart have been interested in is questioning old habits, pushing emotional boundaries, expanding the genre of opera thereby enticing as many Stuttgart residents as possible! *'Inspired or abandoned by all good spirits'* is therefore part of the operatic core. That is why we try out forward-looking forms of cooperation with Florentina Holzinger. Or let hip-hop artists like Maeckes write an opera for us, as with the upcoming world premiere of *Der rote Wal*. Or invite numerous artistic friends from other genres. We want Staatsoper Stuttgart to be a home for lively emotional, discursive, celebratory and musical theatre," concludes intendant Viktor Schöner.

New productions

The first music theatre production by performance artist, choreographer and director Florentina Holzinger celebrates its Stuttgart premiere at the beginning of the season: **SANCTA (5 October 24)** combines Paul Hindemith's one-act opera *Sancta Susanna*, formerly accompanied by a scandal, with sacred works by Bach and Rachmaninov as well as new compositions by Johanna Doderer, Born in Flamez and Stefan Schneider. Swedish conductor Marit Strindlund is the musical director. *SANCTA* brings together independent scene, theatre and festival in a special way: Staatsoper Stuttgart cooperates with Holzinger/Spirit, neon lobster, Mecklenburg Staatstheater, Wiener Festwochen | Freie Republik Wien, Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz Berlin, Komische Oper Berlin, Opera Ballet Vlaanderen, Julidans and Rotterdam Theatre.

The last new production in the 24/25 season is a world premiere: **Der rote Wal (18 June 25)** tells the story of the Red Army Fraction and the so-called "German Autumn" as a fairy tale about resistance and the monopoly of violence. The libretto was written by rapper, singer-songwriter and lyricist Markus Winter known as Maeckes. Vivan and Ketan Bhatti – composers, instrumentalists and producers – are responsible for the musical score. Matthias Klink, Josefin Feiler and Stine Marie Fischer from the Stuttgart ensemble are cast in the leading roles. Israeli conductor Keren Kargarlitsky, who led through last season's opening concert, takes on the musical direction.

General Music Director Cornelius Meister is responsible for two new productions in 24/25: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Idomeneo (24 November 24)*, directed by Bastian Kraft, who enjoyed great success in Stuttgart in 2022 with *Rusalka*. The cast of *Idomeneo* includes Jeremy Ovenden in the title role, Diana Haller as Elettra and Ida Ränzlöv as Idamante.

Cornelius Meister: "I regard the continuous engagement with Viennese classical music as one of my central duties within my responsibilities for the soloist ensemble, the Staatsoperchor and the Staatsorchester. I have had a close artistic bond with Bastian Kraft ever since I conducted his *Rusalka* in the 2022/23 season."

Secondly, Meister conducts the revue operetta **Casanova (22 December 24)** by Johann Strauss and Ralph Benatzky in a production by Marco Štorman. Michael Mayes takes on the title role, Esther Dierkes the role of Laura.

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"How often have I been asked about an operetta premiere at Staatsoper Stuttgart! Now the time has finally come. And with *Casanova* there are plenty of waltzes, polkas, slow fox and Spanish dances," says Cornelius Meister.

Under the musical direction of Nicholas Carter, Axel Ranisch stages his second Prokofiev work and his third opera in total in Stuttgart with ***Der Spieler* (2 February 25)**, following *The Love for Three Oranges* and *Hansel and Gretel*. Aušrinė Stundytė (Polina), Daniel Brenna (Alexei) and Rosie Aldridge (Babulenska) are among the guest stars in the leading roles.

Director Silvia Costa, who has already brought to the Stuttgart stage Antonio Vivaldi's oratorio *Juditha triumphans*, returns in May 2025 with a new production of Giuseppe Verdi's ***Otello* (18 May 25)**. Stefano Montanari conducts, Matthew Polenzani takes on the title role and Esther Dierkes the role of Desdemona.

Repertoire, family performances and guests

The Staatsoper presents a total of further 15 repertory productions in the 2024/25 season, with Achim Freyer's legendary 1980 *Freischütz* and *Salome* by Kirill Serebrennikov returning to the stage. Calixto Bieito's *Parsifal* under the musical direction of Cornelius Meister is revived – with a new cast and for the first time in Viktor Schoner's directorship. This year's world premiere *Dora* is on the list, also Eric Gauthier's creation *La Fest*. There are family performances of *Der Freischütz*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Rusalka*, *Der Räuber Hotzenplotz* and *La Fest*, where children and young people under the age of 18 and accompanied by an adult pay only 10€ for all seats. Other prominent guest singers include Sophie Koch (*Salome*), Franz Hawlata (*Der Räuber Hotzenplotz* and *Der Freischütz*), Gerhard Siegel (*Salome*), Lucio Gallo (*Tosca*), Martin Gantner (*Rigoletto*), Katia Ledoux (*Rusalka*) and conductor Oksana Lyniv (*Rusalka*).

Cooperation

Transcending genre boundaries, the Staatsoper Stuttgart brings rap critic favourite Tua to the stage and again invites HipHop Open in cooperation with Im Wizemann. The Littmann Sessions, at which pop scholarship holders from the Pop-Büro Region Stuttgart represent the regional music scene, once again takes place in cooperation with JOiN and the Pop-Büro.

In June and July 2025, the Ludwigsburg Schlossfestspiele and the Staatsoper Stuttgart perform at the baroque Ludwigsburg Schlosstheater. Director Jessica Glause stages *Zaide*, Mozart's Singspiel fragment, with Staatsorchester Stuttgart and the Staatsoper ensemble.

Young Opera in the North (JOiN)

In their second season, JOiN directors Keith Bernard Stonum and Martin Mutschler pose the question "What is opera*?": What could the art form of opera still mean today and how can it continue to develop further?" In addition to the premieres of *The Fairy-Queen* and *Pinocchio's Adventures*, JOiN presents the

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scenic concerts *Hallo Blau* (from 3-6 years), *Reise zum Mittelpunkt der Erde* (from 5 years) and *JEIN!* (from 8 years) as well as the music theatre play *Mlarben-Plak!* (from 6 years), the pop revue *Gnadenlos Atemlos* (from 7 to 107 years) and *Tee & Techno*, the relaxed concert for parents and children (from 0 years). JOiN also remains a place for dialogue and music with *Listening Sessions* and late-night formats such as *Abends im JOiN*, *Night Songs* and the talk show *Meet my Shrink!*

Advance booking: Tickets for all performances of the 24/25 season at Staatsoper Stuttgart are available from 8 July onwards.

Further information:

<https://www.staatsoper-stuttgart.de/spielplan/saison-24-25>

<https://www.staatsoper-stuttgart.de/junge-oper/join-2024-25>

Contact

Sebastian Ebling, Press officer

T +49 (0) 711 20 32 -515

M +49 (0) 1520 29 43 041

sebastian.ebling@staatstheater-stuttgart.de