

COLLECTION
BBVA FOUNDATION - NEOS

Cristóbal Halffter

LÁZARO

Opera in one act

On texts by Juan Carlos Marset

Philharmonisches Orchester Kiel

Georg Fritzsich, Musical Director

Alexander Schulin, Stage Director

Satefanie Pasterkamp, Scenery & Costumes

Joscha Schaback, Dramaturge

BIOGRAPHIES:

Cristóbal Halffter is one of the most renowned contemporary composers in Spain. Born in 1930 in Madrid, he spent part of his youth in Germany. After a period as teacher and Director of the Real Conservatorio de Música in Madrid, he set out on an international career as a conductor and composer. Numerous prizes and honorary titles attest to the enormous significance and influence of Halffter's music. Cristóbal Halffter holds Germany's Federal Cross of Merit as well as the Goethe Medal. In 1981 King Juan Carlos of Spain presented the composer with the Gold Medal of the Academy of Fine Arts for his services to music. He is a member of the San Fernando Academy of Fine Arts in Madrid, and holds honorary doctorates from the University of León and the Complutense University of Madrid. In 1994 he received the Montaigne Prize of the Hamburg F.V.S. Foundation in recognition of the humanitarian content of his music, his significance for Spanish musical life, and his contribution to musical culture in Spain. In 1995 he was awarded the European Prize for Composition.

Juan Carlos Marset (Libretto) is a writer and Professor of Art Theory and Aesthetics at the University of Seville. He has taught at the State University of New York, at Stony Brook University and at Sarah Lawrence College. Editor since 1995 of the art, music and literature magazine *Sibila*. He was responsible for programming contemporary music at the Teatro Central de Sevilla, completed his PhD at Columbia University in New York (where he had also received his MA and MPhil), and was Professor of Spanish at the same center between 1987 and 1990. Juan Carlos Marset has worked with various composers on productions and musical recordings, and has also written libretti for contemporary operas. He is presently Director of the National Institute for the Stage Arts and Music under the Spanish Ministry of Culture.

Georg Fritzsich (Musical Director) was appointed General Music Director of the State Capital Kiel at the beginning of the 2003/2004 season. After studying violoncello at the Conservatory of Music "Carl Maria von Weber" in Dresden, he became solo cellist of the Gera Philharmonic Orchestra and took up conducting studies in Dresden and Leipzig. In 1991 he was a prize-winner at the German

Conducting Forum in Halle and in 1993 received a grant from the Herbert von Karajan Foundation. Between 1996 and 1998 he was a frequent Guest Conductor with the Gera Philharmonic Orchestra, the Thüringen Philharmonic Suhl and the State Philharmonic Orchestra Halle. In 1998 he became General Music Director of the Philharmonic Orchestra of South Westphalia and the City of Hagen, as well as Musical Director of the Hagen Theatre until the 2002/2003 season. He has made guest appearances at many important opera houses, in South Africa and in the USA, and has also conducted many internationally famous orchestras. Between 1999 and 2003 Georg Fritzsch held a professorship at the Conservatory Tilburg in The Netherlands. Since 2003 he has been holding annual courses under the auspices of the Conductors Forum of the German Music Council.

Alexander Schulin (Stage Director) studied at the Conservatory of Music in Munich with August Everding. He immediately became Assistant Director and Staff Director at the Bavarian State Opera before taking up the same positions in 1992 at the State Opera Unter den Linden in Berlin. He directed many productions at the Prinzregententheater in Munich and the State Theatre Hildesheim. In 1998 Daniel Barenboim entrusted him with a new production of Beethoven's *Fidelio* at the Symphony Center Chicago. Since then, Alexander Schulin has worked as a freelance director and has been active in many renowned houses such as the State Theatre Nuremberg, the State Theatre Karlsruhe, Graz Opera, Theatre Lucerne, Volksoper Vienna, State Opera Hamburg and the Montpellier Opera.

Stefanie Pasterkamp (Scenery and Costumes) gathered initial work experience in the workshops of the State Theatre Saarland. In 1989 she became a scenery assistant at the Bavarian State Opera before taking up the same position two years later at the Theatre Basel. There she met the director and stage designer Herbert Wernicke, with whom she enjoyed a fruitful cooperation on many European stages such as Brussels, Hamburg, Zurich, Amsterdam, Vienna and Lyon. In 1996 the director Dieter Kaegi became her most important professional partner, and she worked with him on numerous joint productions.

Joscha Schaback (Dramaturge) studied German Language and Literature as well as Theatre Studies and Musicology at the Humboldt University Berlin, and Stage Direction at the Acting Academy Ernst Busch in Berlin. After these studies he took charge of various projects at the Youth Triennial of the Ruhr Triennial under Gerard Mortier. Since 2003 he has been the dramaturge at the Kiel Opera House Music Theatre.

Jörg Sabrowski (Lazarus) was born in 1967 in Kiel and grew up in Concepción (Chile), before studying Voice (baritone) and Musical Education at the Conservatoire for Music and Theatre Hamburg with Hans Kagel, Tom Krause and James Wagner. Since 1994 he has been a soloist with the Kiel Opera Ensemble appearing in numerous important baritone roles. Guest appearances have taken him to the State Theatres of Bremerhaven, Münster, Rostock and Bonn, Hanover, Kassel and Braunschweig as well as to the Gewandhaus in Leipzig. Jörg Sabrowski has also appeared in many concert performances of works of sacred music.

Julia Henning (Mary) studied Lied and Oratorio at the Conservatory of Music and Theatre Hamburg with Sabine Kirchner and was a member of the opera class of Helmut Franz. She received awards from the Studies Foundation of the German People as well as the Alfred Töpfer Foundation, completing her studies with honours and taking part in numerous master-classes. Her commitment to contemporary music lead her to guest appearances at the Hamburg State Opera, Bonn Opera, Theater Kiel, Klangforum Wien, Ensemble Intercontemporain, EXPO 2000, Munich Biennale and Manfred Stahnke's ensemble "Chaosma". She has also been active in the field of oratorio and has given many Lieder recitals. Along with her concert engagements in German-speaking countries, Julia

Henning has appeared in North and South America, Great Britain, France, Scandinavia, Russia and Japan.

Claudia Iten (Martha) studied Voice with Dorothea Galli in Zurich before continuing her training with Anna Reynolds, Margret Honig and Mirella Freni. Along with her opera appearances, she offers an extensive concert and Lied repertoire that encompasses early Baroque and modern music. She has given concerts at the Tonhalle Zurich and at the International Lugano Festival. After her first engagements at the Fribourg Opera (Switzerland) and the Kammeroper in Vienna, she was offered roles from the 2003/2004 to the 2006/2007 seasons at the Kiel Opera. During the 2005/2006 season she established herself as a young dramatic soprano and has since gained a reputation at the Theater Kiel as well as in Frankfurt and at the Deutsche Oper Berlin.

Johannes An (Guard I/Jacob) was born in 1974 in Seoul, Korea, and studied first at Seoul National University before continuing his studies at the State Conservatory for Music Trossingen with Monika Moldenhauer. He has been finalist and/or prize-winner at various international competitions: in 2003 he received First Prize in the Lied section of the "Concorso Internazionale Valsesia Musica" in Italy, and in 2004 was prize-winner at the International Voice Competition of the Chamber Opera of Schloss Rheinsberg. Johannes An became an ensemble member of the Kiel Opera at the beginning of the 2005/2006 season.

Steffen Doberauer (Guard II/John) was born in 1976 in Lucklum near Braunschweig, and started voice lessons with Marietta Zumbült and Frank Peter in Hanover whilst still at school. From 1997 onwards he studied Voice at the Conservatory of Music and Theatre "Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy" with Hans-Joachim Beyer. In 2002 he joined the class of Klaus Dieter Kern at the State Conservatory of Music in Karlsruhe, where he completed his studies. Since September 2003 he has made guest appearances with the Young Opera Project of the State Opera Stuttgart. Since the 2005/2006 season Steffen Doberauer has been a member of the Kiel Opera ensemble.

Matthias Klein (Guard III/Andrew) completed his voice studies at the Franz Liszt Conservatory in Weimar, at the Hanns Eisler Conservatory in Berlin and at the Conservatory for Music and Theatre in Hanover. His first fixed engagement was in 1998 in Kiel, where he was to be heard in numerous roles up until 2003. Since 2003 Matthias Klein has been active as a freelance artist, making guest appearances not only in operas and concert performances in Germany and abroad (Spain, the Czech Republic and Japan) and is also a lecturer in voice coaching at the Kiel School of Acting.

Jooil Choi (Malchus/Simon) was born and grew up in Seoul, studying there at Yonsei University. In 1996 he moved to Germany, where he continued his musical studies at Cologne Conservatory, graduating with an Artistic Diploma in 1998. This young singer has received many awards (including the First Prize at the Competition for German Lieder held by the Goethe Institute and the 1998 competition "I cestelli" in North Rhine Westphalia). Since the 1998/1999 season he has been an ensemble member of the Theater Meiningen. At the beginning of the 2003/2004 season Jooil Choi became part of the Kiel Opera ensemble.

Translation from the German: Graham Lack