



MOSES IN EGYPT

GIOACHINO ROSSINI

Tragic-sacred drama in three acts (1818/19)

Libretto by Andrea Leone Tottola

Sung in Italian with German surtitles

Moses causes darkness to envelop Egypt in order to finally bring about the Israelites' release from captivity. The Pharaoh eventually relents and proclaims they will be set free. His son, however, doesn't want to lose a Hebrew girl he is secretly in love with and so he incites an associate to make the Pharaoh change his mind. The plan works, and the Israelites can do nothing but bewail their hopeless situation. Moses then prays to his God for a more brutal kind of help. By choosing an Old Testament subject, Gioachino Rossini was able to get round the ban on staging operas during Lent. Nonetheless, *Moses in Egypt* (*Mosè in Egitto*) contains all the ingredients of grand opera, mainly thanks to the covert love story involving the heir to the Egyptian throne. Today the moving prayer-aria of the Israelites in captivity remains the best known piece from the opera.

For this rarely staged opera, a unique production concept has been devised by the Dutch director Lotte de Beer. She has teamed up with the theatre group Hotel Modern – which conjures up its own reality using filmed objects and miniature puppets – to present the biblical tale of plagues and the parting of the Red Sea on the Bregenz stage. Rossini's stirring score will be conducted by Enrique Mazzola, an Italian born in Spain, while Christof Hetzer, who designed the sets for Stefan Herheim's production of *The Tales of Hoffmann* last year, will be making a return visit to Bregenz.

PREMIERE

20 July – 7.30 pm

PERFORMANCES

23 July – 11 am

31 July – 7.30 pm

Festspielhaus

Music director **Enrique Mazzola**

Stage director **Lotte de Beer**

Stage designer & costume designer **Christof Hetzer**

Theatre Group **Hotel Modern**

Vienna Symphony Orchestra

Prague Philharmonic Choir

The 2017 Bregenz Festival runs from 19 July to 20 August 2017. For tickets and information, please visit www.bregenzfestspiele.com or call tel. 0043 5574 4076.