



BEATRICE CENCI

BERTHOLD GOLDSCHMIDT

Opera in three acts (1949/50)

Libretto by Martin Esslin based on *The Cenci* by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1819)

German version by Berthold Goldschmidt

Performed with German surtitles

Francesco Cenci owns several palaces in and around Rome, leads a dissolute life with lavish feasts and doesn't shrink from committing acts of violence to remove people he finds troublesome. He escapes trial by donating some of his real estate to the Church. He horrifies his dinner guests by gleefully announcing the death of his two sons. He responds to his daughter Beatrice's despair by even worse physical abuse. Abetted by her stepmother Lucrezia, Beatrice plans her father's murder.

The story of Beatrice and Lucrezia, both executed in 1599, was turned into an opera by Berthold Goldschmidt in 1949 for an opera competition in the United Kingdom. The German Jewish composer had lived in London since 1935, dying there in 1996. The competition jury awarded Goldschmidt's draft opera a prize, but the promised performance never took place. It was not until 1988 that it received its concert premiere in London. Goldschmidt himself described the work as a "real bel canto opera" and it ends with a poignant requiem for the two executed women.

This suspenseful opera about church corruption and human violence will be directed by Johannes Erath, whose staging of Miroslav Srnka's *Make No Noise* at the Workshop Theatre in 2016 was very well received by audiences and critics alike. The conductor will be Johannes Debus, who Bregenz Festival audiences will remember as music director of Jacques Offenbach's *The Tales of Hoffmann*.

PREMIERE

18 July 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

FURTHER PERFORMANCES

22 July at 11 a.m.

30 July at 7.30 p.m.

FESTSPIELHAUS

Music director **Johannes Debus**

Stage director **Johannes Erath**

Stage designer **Katrin Connan**

Costume designer **Katharina Tasch**

Vienna Symphony Orchestra

Prague Philharmonic Choir

The 2018 Bregenz Festival runs from 18 July to 20 August 2018. For tickets and details visit www.bregenzfestspiele.com or call +43 (0)5574 407-6.