

Based on Oscar Wilde's story *The Birthday of the Infanta*, Zemlinsky's single-act opera *Der Zwerg* is the tragic tale of a dwarf who is presented at court, falls in love with the beautiful Donna Clara, but is ultimately forced to see himself as others see him and to die of a broken heart. Preceded by Schoenberg's *Accompaniment to a Cinematographic Scene*, Op. 34, Zemlinsky's Romantic score is full of psychological intrigue. Is *Der Zwerg* a critique of society's superficiality? Is it the composer's self-portrait in his doomed affair with Alma Schindler? Director Tobias Kratzer's stunning, transparent production creates a space in which each character is thrown into sharp relief in this 'fine, noble and melancholy work' (*Bachtrack.com*).

AS PROLOGUE

ARNOLD SCHOENBERG (1874–1951)

BEGLEITUNGSMUSIK ZU EINER LICHTSPIELSCENE

('ACCOMPANIMENT TO A CINEMATOGRAPHIC SCENE')

for orchestra, Op. 34 (1930)

Alma Schindler	ADELLE ESLINGER-RUNNICLES Piano
Alexander von Zemlinsky	EVGENY NIKIFOROV Piano

ALEXANDER VON ZEMPLINSKY (1871–1942)

DER ZWERG

('THE DWARF')

Opera in one act, Op. 17 (1921)

Libretto by Georg C. Klaren (1900–1962)

after the fairy tale *The Birthday of the Infanta* by Oscar Wilde (1854–1900)

Donna Clara	ELENA TSALLAGOVA
Ghita	EMILY MAGEE
Der Zwerg (singer)	DAVID BUTT PHILIP
Der Zwerg (actor)	MICK MORRIS MEHNERT
Don Estoban	PHILIPP JEKAL
Erste Zofe	FLURINA STUCKI
Zweite Zofe	AMBER FASQUELLE
Dritte Zofe	MAIJU VAAHTOLUOTO
Das erste Mädchen	SO YOUNG PARK
Das zweite Mädchen	KRISTINA HÄGER

ORCHESTRA OF THE DEUTSCHE OPER BERLIN

Conductor DONALD RUNNICLES

CHORUS OF THE DEUTSCHE OPER BERLIN

Chorus Master JEREMY BINES

Stage Director TOBIAS KRATZER

Set and Costume Designer RAINER SELLMAIER

Lighting Designer STEFAN WOINKE

Video Director GÖTZ FILENIUS

Filmed on 27 and 30 March 2019 at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Germany

A Naxos production in co-operation with the Deutsche Oper Berlin

ZEMPLINSKY
DER ZWERG

