

Initially a failure when first performed in London in 1750, *Theodora* has proved to be one of Handel's most enduring and passionate masterpieces – a work of introspective depth about the redemptive power of tolerance. Theodora's determination to die in defence of her religious freedom offers her the promise of eternal salvation. In this acclaimed Viennese production, award-winning stage director Stefan Herheim contrasts Theodora's self-sacrifice with the lack of spiritual direction of our own times. La Folia Barockorchester and the Arnold Schoenberg Chor are conducted by the acclaimed countertenor and Handel specialist Bejun Mehta.

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759)

THEODORA

Oratorio in three acts, HWV 68 (1750)

Libretto by Thomas Morell (1703-1784)

Theodora **JACQUELYN WAGNER**

Didymus **CHRISTOPHER LOWREY**

Septimius **DAVID PORTILLO**

Valens **EVAN HUGHES**

Irene **JULIE BOULIANNE**

Arnold Schoenberg Chor

Chorus Master **ERWIN ORTNER**

La Folia Barockorchester

Conductor **BEJUN MEHTA**

Stage Director **STEFAN HERHEIM**

Set Designer **SILKE BAUER**

Costume Designer **GESINE VÖLLM**

Lighting Designer **FRANZ TSCHECK**

Video Designer **ROMAN HAGENBROCK**

Dramaturge **KAI WEßLER**

Video Director **GÖTZ FILENIUS**

A production of Vereinigte Bühnen Wien in cooperation with Naxos

Filmed on 23 and 25 October 2023 at MuseumsQuartier / Hall E, Vienna, Austria

www.naxos.com

Total playing time: 176 minutes

Language: English • Subtitles: English, German, French, Japanese, Korean

NTSC 16:9 • Dolby Digital 2.0 and Surround 5.1 • Region: 0 (worldwide) • DVD 9

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