

Drawing on historical texts, Fabrice Bollon's opera *The Folly* focuses on Erasmus of Rotterdam, the influential Renaissance reformer, cosmopolitan humanist and intellectual, who, in old age, reflects on the events of his life. Past and present converge as fictional figures from his books or real-life antagonists appear in much the same way as Bollon merges periods through his creative use of several 16th-century compositions. Set in an age of polarised extremism that reflects our own times, Erasmus's humanism requires vigilance, defence and reinvention.

Fabrice
BOLLON
(b. 1965)

The Folly – Tragedy of Erasmus of Rotterdam

Opera in five acts (2021) • Libretto by Clemens Bechtel (b. 1964)

Erasmus of Rotterdam Michael Borth, Baritone
Stultitia (The Folly) / Pope Julius II Zvi Emanuel-Marial, Countertenor
Martin Luther Roberto Gionfriddo, Tenor
Margarethe Büsslin Anja Jung, Contralto

Friederike Hess-Gagnon, Electric violin

Dina Fortuna-Bollon, Electric cello • Tilman Collmer, Electric drums

Opernchor des Theater Freiburg • Extrachor des Theater Freiburg

Norbert Kleinschmidt, Chorus Master

Kinder- und Jugendchor des Theater Freiburg

Martin Frey, Leader of Children and Youth Choir

Philharmonisches Orchester Freiburg • Fabrice Bollon

WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

CD 1 1–15 Act I 16–23 Act II 24–33 Act III 70:41 CD 2 1–13 Act IV 14–23 Act V 47:43

A detailed track list, cast list and full recording details can be found inside the booklet.

The original libretto and an English translation can be accessed at www.naxos.com/libretti/660545.htm

Booklet notes and a synopsis in German can be accessed at www.naxos.com/notes/660545.htm

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Cover: Michael Borth as Erasmus • Photo by Britt Schilling



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Playing Time
1:58:24



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Made in the USA

Booklet notes and synopsis in English

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