



The collaboration of the poet John Dryden and Henry Purcell marked a conspicuous leap forward for English opera. Their greatest project, *King Arthur*, is a five-act 'dramatick opera', the text of which had its origins in a patriotic musical play Dryden had written in 1684 but which he radically overhauled. The result was a work that appealed to the audience's enthusiasm for fine costumes, lavish sets, ingenious stage machinery and a cast of singers, dancers and instrumentalists, containing vocal show-stoppers such as the imperishable *Frost Scene* and *Fairest Isle*. This critically acclaimed staging uses a new performing edition by René Jacobs, and is sung in English with German dialogue.

HENRY PURCELL

(1659–1695)

KING ARTHUR

OR THE BRITISH WORTHY

Dramatick opera in five acts, Z. 628 (1691) • Libretto by John Dryden (1631–1700)

Performing edition by René Jacobs

Sung in English with German dialogue • German text by Wolfgang Wiens and Hans Duncker

Singers

Anett Fritsch Soprano
Robin Johannsen Soprano
Benno Schachtner Countertenor
Mark Milhofer Tenor
Stephan Rügamer Tenor
Arttu Kataja Baritone
Johannes Weisser Baritone

Actors

Arthur Michael Rotschopf
Oswald Max Urlacher
Conon Axel Wandtke
Merlin Hans-Michael Rehberg
Osmond Oliver Stokowski
Grimbald Tom Radisch
Aurelius Steffen Schortie Scheumann
Emmeline Meike Droste
Matilda Sigrid Maria Schnücker

Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin
Conductor René Jacobs

Choir of the Staatsoper Unter den Linden
Chorus Master Martin Wright

Dancers of the skills ensemble

Stage Directors Sven-Eric Bechtolf and Julian Crouch
Set Designer Julian Crouch
Choreographer Gail Skrela
Costume Designer Kevin Pollard
Lighting Designer Olaf Freese
Video Joshua Higgason
Dramaturge Detlef Giese

Video Director Andy Sommer
Video Producer François Duplat – Bel Air Media

Filmed on 19 and 21 January 2017 at the Staatsoper im Schiller Theater, Berlin, Germany

Performing edition of the musical score created by René Jacobs based on the Novello Edition © Novello & Co. Ltd
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BelAir
media **mezzo**

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