

CONCERTO COPENHAGEN

Press release

In April 2022, Concerto Copenhagen, Scandinavia's leading baroque orchestra, will be involved in two projects with strong dramatic and emotional content :

- **W.A. Mozart's „Mitridate, re di Ponto“, an operatic masterpiece by the 14 year old wunderkind, at the Royal Theatre, Copenhagen and Malmö Opera. Director: Lars Ulrik Mortensen**
- **„Symphonic drama“, in The Black Diamond Concert Hall, Copenhagen, based on the extreme emotions of the „Sturm & Drang“ movement. Director: Lars Ulrik Mortensen**

Mitridate, re di Ponto:

Lars Ulrik Mortensen's unmistakable flair for drama and strong emotions come to the fore in this unparalleled interpretation of Mozart's youthful masterpiece. Supported by a superb international cast, dancers from „Skånes Dansteater“, a historically adapted Concerto Copenhagen and a production team of international acclaim, this production pulls out all the stops!

Mozart's „Mitridate, re di Ponto“ is based on a play by Jean Racine, featuring king Mitridate and his two sons, both of whom fall in love with princess Aspasia, amidst a major conflict with the Roman Empire. Stuart Jackson sings the breathtaking part of Mitridate, Emöke Baráth and Morten Grove Frandsen portray his sons, Sifare and Farnace, and the alluring princess Aspasia is sung by Elísabeth Einarsdóttir. The production team includes director Ralf Pleger, sculptor and stage designer Alexander Polzin and choreographer Fernando Melo.

The premiere will take place on April 8th in the Royal Theatre, Copenhagen.

Further performances:

Copenhagen: April 13th, 22nd and 24th

Malmö: April 14th, 18th and 20th.

“Sturm & Drang” symphonies by Kozeluch, Kraus and Mozart

On April 23rd, Concerto Copenhagen and director Lars Ulrik Mortensen perform symphonies inspired by the emotionally charged “Sturm & Drang” movement, in the Black Diamond Concert Hall, Copenhagen.

"Sturm & Drang" was a brief period in Europe between c1760-1780 that contained a youthful and almost "pre-romantic" rebellion against the Enlightenment's worship of rationality and empirical knowledge. Literature, in particular, was marked by these great, unbridled emotions - as in Goethe's The Sorrows of Young Werther - but several composers of the time also gave free rein to these feelings.

The young Mozart's fiery Symphony in G minor, familiar to many from the opening scene of the 1984 film Amadeus, is the main work at this concert. In addition to Mozart, grand, sombre and dramatic symphonies by Swedish-German Joseph Martin Kraus and Czech Leopold Kozeluch, are presented. This is a concert where you get closer to real emotion!

Since its first concerts in 1991, Concerto Copenhagen (CoCo) leading orchestra in Early Music Baroque, Classical and Early Romantic. With artistic director, conductor, and harpsichordist, Lars

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Ulrik Mortensen, at the helm, CoCo has become synonymous with a special, methodological approach to working with historical material. CoCo unites artistic authenticity and innovation through original and uncompromising interpretations, the music is given new life and renewed relevance to a modern audience. Since 1999, the collaboration between CoCo and Lars Ulrik Mortensen has led to an exciting artistic and musical journey appreciated and praised by audiences and critics around the world. With a unique repertoire that combines well-known European music with lesser-known works of Scandinavian origin as well as new music, CoCo marked its 30th anniversary in 2021. In 2022 CoCo is DR P2 Artist of the Year.

Web: concertocopenhagen.com

„Mitridate – Ré di Ponto“

Opera seria in three acts

Premiere the 08. April 2022, 7 PM, The Old Stage, The Royal Theatre

Following performances:

The Royal Theatre, Copenhagen: 10. April, 3 pm | 22. April, 7 pm | 24. April, 3 pm.

Malmö Opera, Malmö: 14. April, 7 pm | 18. April, 4 pm | 20. April, 7 pm

Director | **Ralf Pleger**

Choreographer | **Fernando Melo**

Scenographic and Design | **Alexander Polzin**

Lighting Design | **Olaf Freese**

Concerto Copenhagen

Conductor | **Lars Ulrik Mortensen**

Mitridate, Re di Ponto | **Stuart Jackson**

Aspasia | **Elísabet Einarsdóttir**

Sifare | **Emöke Baráth**

Farnace | **Morten Grove Frandsen**

Ismene | **Sarah Aristidou**

Marzio | **Sebastian Monti**

Arbate | **Kari Dahl Nielsen**

Sturm und Drang

The Black Diamond, Queen's Hall, the 23. April, 2022 4 PM.

Leopold Kozeluch (1747-1818) | Sinfonie in g-Moll op. 22 Nr. 3 (1787)

Joseph Martin Kraus | Sinfonie in c-Moll VB 142 (1783)

Wolfgang A. Mozart | Sinfonie Nr. 25 in g-Moll, KV 183 (1773)

Concerto Copenhagen

Conductor | **Lars Ulrik Mortensen**

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