

WIENER
STAATSOPER



GIUSEPPE VERDI OTELLO

Jonas Kaufmann *Otello* • Rachel Willis-Sørensen *Desdemona* • Ludovic Tézier *Iago* • Bekhzod Davronov *Cassio*
Szilvia Vörös *Emilia* • Ted Black *Roderigo* • Ilja Kazakov *Lodovico* • Leonardo Neiva *Montano*

Ferdinand Pfeiffer *A herald* • Katharina Billerhart *Bianca*
Chor der Wiener Staatsoper • Thomas Lang *Chorus Master*

Orchester der Wiener Staatsoper • Alexander Soddy *Conductor*

Adrian Noble *Stage Director*

Video Director: Dominik Kepczynski | Length: 148' | Shot in HD | Stereo | Cat. no. **A04050356**
Wiener Staatsoper/ORF III/UNITEL



“Jonas Kaufmann: Magnificent”

Kurier

“Ludovic Tézier [...] is an ideal cast for one of the greatest villains in opera history.”

Simply Classic

Never has Giuseppe Verdi composed revenge, intrigue and jealousy fierier and more diabolical than in his late opera *Otello*: The Venetian warlord Otello becomes a raging murderer out of jealousy. Desdemona loves him, but their love fails as Iago's intrigue begins to take effect. One of the greatest love stories in literature – *Otello* is the second of Verdi's three Shakespeare operas – fails brutally, cruelly and senselessly. With the title role of *Otello*, Jonas Kaufmann takes on what is probably the most demanding part of his vocal register. He is “in splendid form” (*Kronen Zeitung*) and “has sung his way into the Olympus as an interpreter of Otello” (*klassik-begeistert.de*) with

this performance. Baritone Ludovic Tézier “is unrivalled as Iago” (*Kurier*). “This baritone's attacks are like acts of tonal violence, his legato mischief clever manipulations. A devil on earth.” (*Der Standard*) Soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen is “a Desdemona to fall in love with” (*Die Presse*) with “a voice to kneel down to, with a timbre that captivates” (*klassik-begeistert.de*). Adrian Noble's staging moves the action to circa 1900, stripping it of its historical context. Emphasizing the inner world of the main character and his emotional disintegration, his *Otello* becomes “a psychological thriller” (*bachtrack.com*).