



Nikolaus Harnoncourt

Anna Mika

Johanna Fürstauer

# NIKOLAUS HARNONCOURT. OPERA, SENSUAL

With numerous illustrations

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The opera and music theater of Nikolaus Harnoncourt, from Monteverdi to Stravinsky: a life in the light of opera.

The art form of opera is more than 400 years old, but it has managed to stay young and fresh thanks to artists such as Nikolaus Harnoncourt and his unfailing endeavor to continuously renew this art form and our understanding of it. His 80th birthday serves as the perfect opportunity to revisit his life in the colorful world of opera. Numerous examples, from Monteverdi's "L'Orfeo" and Mozart's "Figaro" to Stravinsky's "The Rake's Progress" illustrate how vivid and lively opera can be. Opera is a theater for all senses, not a dusty relic from the past, a hallowed tradition or elitist vanity fair. Text, music, drama and an image of the world portrayed on stage all come together in the unique cosmos of opera, with the purpose of reflecting our human nature. And thus opera is a necessity, like all...

## NIKOLAUS HARNONCOURT

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born in 1929 in Berlin, died 2016. In 1953, he founded his ensemble for old music, the Concentus Musicus. As a conductor, he won numerous international awards, including the Musikpreis of the Ernst von Siemens Foundation (2002) and the Kyoto Prize (2005).

## ANNA MIKA

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studied voice in Salzburg. She works as voice trainer and music journalist.



## JOHANNA FÜRSTAUER

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born in 1931, died in 2018, studied German and English language and literature as well as performance of old music. She is a writer, editor and translator of numerous cultural-historic texts and books on classical music.