

THE KÁLMÁN GALA

FROM THE SEMPEROPER DRESDEN



STAATSKAPELLE DRESDEN
CHRISTIAN THIELEMANN

with

INGEBORG SCHÖPF
PIOTR BECZALA



UNITEL CLASSICA



THE KÁLMÁN GALA

FROM THE SEMPEROPER DRESDEN

Conductor **Christian Thielemann**
 Orchestra **Staatskapelle Dresden**
 Chorus **Sächsischer Staatsoperchor**
 Chorus Master **Pablo Assante**

Soprano **Ingeborg Schöpf**
 Tenor **Piotr Beczala**

Video Director **Hannes Rossacher**

Length **99'**

Shot in **HDTV 1080**
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A production of **ZDF**
 in co-production with **UNITEL**
 in cooperation with
Sächsische Staatsoper Dresden and CLASSICA

With this Gala Concert from the Semperoper in Dresden, Christian Thielemann gives eloquent testimony to an early love of his, the operetta. Since the beginning of his conducting career he has had a fascination for this genre. Time and again he has drawn parallels between the heavyweight Wagner and lighter works, his principal aim being to demonstrate the skills he acquired while conducting operettas: "Anyone who can handle *The Merry Widow*," he says, "will have no problems with *Lohengrin*." For this gala he turned his attention to Lehár's contemporary Emmerich Kálmán. He found two enthusiastic partners in Ingeborg Schöpf, the leading soprano from the Dresden State Operetta company, and internationally acclaimed tenor Piotr Beczala, and was frenetically applauded by the audience. They are joined by the Dresden State Opera Chorus and the Dresden Opera Ballet dancing in the beautiful interiors of the Semperoper.

The Hungarian Emmerich Kálmán is widely seen as a leading figure in the silver age of operetta. His music combines the "gypsy" idiom that was then believed to be typically Hungarian with the strains of the Viennese waltz. The concert features famous melodies from *Die Csárdásfürstin* (1915), *Gräfin Mariza* (1924) and *Die Zirkusprinzessin* (1926) as well as arias from less known and seldom performed works. One of the composer's early successes, *Der Zigeunerprimas* (1913), celebrates even celebrates his 100th anniversary in Dresden: it was performed in the city's Residenztheater exactly a century ago in 1913 and was conducted by Kálmán himself.

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