

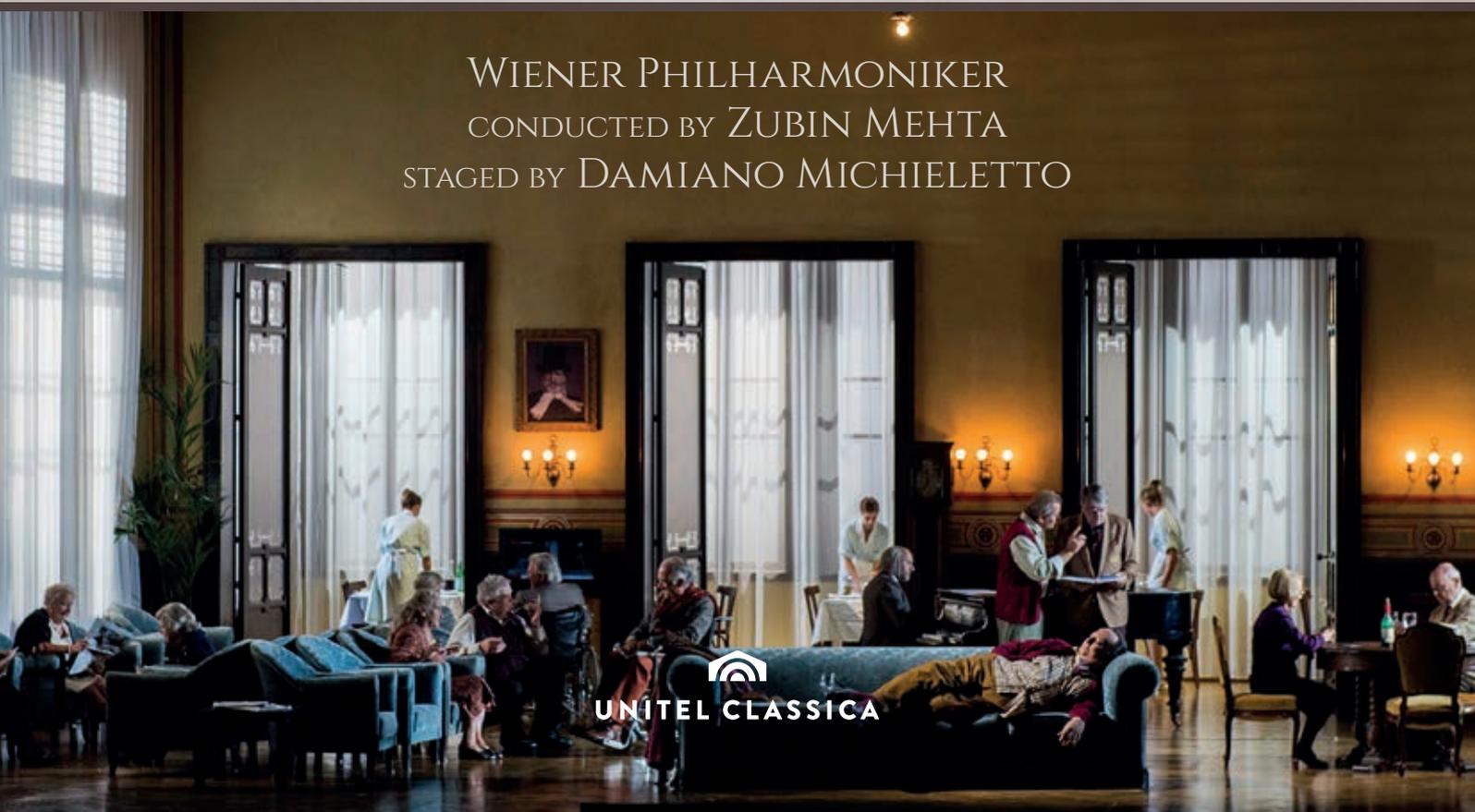


GIUSEPPE VERDI

FALSTAFF

AMBROGIO MAESTRI FIORENZA CEDOLINS MASSIMO CAVALLETTI ELISABETH KULMAN

WIENER PHILHARMONIKER
CONDUCTED BY ZUBIN MEHTA
STAGED BY DAMIANO MICHIELETTO



UNITEL CLASSICA



GIUSEPPE VERDI
FALSTAFF

Orchestra **Wiener Philharmoniker**
 Conductor **Zubin Mehta**
 Chorus **Philharmonia Chor Wien**
 Chorus Master **Walter Zeh**
 Stage Director **Damiano Michieletto**

Sir John Falstaff **Ambrogio Maestri**
 Mrs. Alice Ford **Fiorenza Cedolins**
 Ford **Massimo Cavalletti**
 Nannetta **Eleonora Buratto**
 Mrs. Quickly **Elisabeth Kulman**
 Mrs. Meg Page **Stephanie Houtzeel**
 Fenton **Javier Camarena**
 Dott. Cajus **Luca Casalin**
 Bardolfo **Gianluca Sorrentino**
 Pistola **Davide Fersini**

Produced by **ORF**
 Video Director **Karina Fibich**

Length: approx. 120'
Shot in HDTV 1080/50i
 Cat. no. A04050010

**A co-production of ORF/3sat and UNITEL in cooperation with
 Wiener Philharmoniker, Salzburg Festival and CLASSICA**



Outside the Casa Verdi in Milan, the famous old people's home for retired singers and musicians founded by Giuseppe Verdi, the afternoon traffic roars by. This establishing shot takes the viewer to Milan, the city where Verdi's last opera – *Falstaff* – was premiered. The music begins and the stage is an elegant salon inside the house with its infirm but eccentric residents. "Michieletto shows old people who thanks to music are young again. It is a declaration of love for youth and age, for life and love, for wine and for the theatre" (*Kurier*).

One of these stars of yesteryear, sleeping off his intoxication on the sofa, dreams himself once more playing Sir John Falstaff, the role for which he was acclaimed in his heyday. The characters of the comedy appear as shadows of the past and now the drama, increasingly a mixture of dream and reality, can commence. This surprising and imaginative staging thought up by the Italian director Damiano Michieletto moves the action of Verdi's late, great masterpiece from a fictitious London to that special care home, the Casa Verdi, a place rich in memories of great days past and impressions of a real-time present. "Damiano Michieletto is bursting with ideas when it comes to combining illusion and reality" (*Tagesspiegel*).

Ambrogio Maestri seems a tailor-made Falstaff. A giant of a man in real life, he is the ideal eponymous hero and the most sought after Falstaff singer of his time. "With a voice that can easily drown out battalions, but can also be as subtle as his wit" (*Tagesspiegel*), this old rascal lasciviously relishes the arts of seduction practised by the mature, experienced Alice ("radiantly sung", says the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, by Fiorenza Cedolins) and the ample charms of Mrs. Quickly ("enchantingly lovely", *Tagesspiegel* – Elisabeth Kulman). "Zubin Mehta conducts with evident enjoyment of rich full sound, the colourful tones of the Vienna Philharmonic are a joy in themselves" (*Salzburger Nachrichten*)!

His physique is just right for the part, as are his powerful voice, flair for drama and feeling for the Verdi style. (*New York Times*)

World Sales:



Tel. +49.30.30306464
 mail@cmajor-entertainment.com


UNITEL CLASSICA