



Thorsten Grümbel (Osmin), Jussi Myllys (Belmonte)  
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**WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART**

# **DIE ENTFÜHRUNG AUS DEM SERAIL**

14. OCTOBER 2017 - 12. JUNE 2018

When Mozart (1756–1791) wrote his Singspiel ‘Die Entführung aus dem Serail’ he was working within an established genre of “the Turkish opera”. This profited from the numerous novels and travel journals which had been published in the 18th century about the secretive and largely unknown Orient. Because nothing inspires fantasy so much as the unknown, in which one’s own fears and desires can be reflected. The abduction of two European women from the Turk Bassa Selim’s harem was more for Mozart than an exotic adventure that simply promised excitement and a certain thrill. The 26 year-old composer probed the story for existential experiences such as love, jealousy, desperation and possessiveness. And he appealed for tolerance and humanity at the end of this oriental adventure when Bassa forgoes revenge and allows his favourite Konstanze to return to her English home unchallenged along with her fiancé Belmonte and their servants.

**Singspiel in three acts, KV 384**

**Text by Christoph Friedrich Bretzner, adapted by Johann Gottlieb Stephanie jr.**

In German

Duration: approx. 3 hours, one interval

<b>MUSIKALISCHE LEITUNG</b> <u>Antonino Fogliani / Axel Kober</u>	<b>INSZENIERUNG</b> <u>András Fricsay Kali Son</u>
<b>CHORLEITUNG</b> <u>Christoph Kurig</u>	<b>SPIELLEITUNG</b> <u>Volker Böhm</u>
<b>BASSA SELIM</b> <u>Peter Nikolaus Kante / Stefan Wilkening</u>	<b>KONSTANZE</b> <u>Adela Zaharia</u>
<b>BLONDE</b> <u>Sibylla Duffe</u>	<b>BELMONTE</b> <u>Bernhard Berchtold / Jussi Myllys</u>
<b>PEDRILLO</b> <u>Cornel Frey / Johannes Preißinger</u>	<b>OSMIN</b> <u>Thorsten Grümbel / David Steffens</u>
<b>CHOR</b> <u>Chor der Deutschen Oper am Rhein</u>	<b>ORCHESTER</b> <u>Duisburger Philharmoniker / Düsseldorfer Symphoniker</u>



Götz Argus (Bassa Selim)

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## Act one

Three Europeans, captured by pirates and taken to exotic Turkey, have been sold to the wealthy Pasha Selim. The Spanish noblewoman Constanze has been placed in the pasha's seraglio, or harem; her English maid Blonde has been given as a gift by the pasha to the guardian of his harem Osmin; and the young servant Pedrillo has been made the pasha's gardener. As the action begins, Constanze's Spanish fiance Belmonte has traced them to the pasha's seaside palace. Upon his arrival, Belmonte encounters Osmin, and questions him about the whereabouts of Pedrillo. Osmin, who considers Pedrillo a rival for Blonde's affections, threatens Belmonte. When Osmin leaves, Pedrillo tells Belmonte that the pasha is in love with Constanze but will not force himself on her. This news makes Belmonte all the more anxious for an immediate reunion with Constanze. Pasha Selim enters with Constanze who explains to him that she cannot return his affection because she is still in love with her Spanish fiance. When Constanze leaves, Pedrillo introduces Belmonte to the pasha as a promising young architect. Intrigued, Selim arranges for a meeting the next day. Pedrillo and Belmonte follow Selim into the palace.

## Act two

In the palace garden, the feisty Blonde tells Osmin that he must treat women with tenderness and flattery, and she easily faces him down when he tries to order her around. In another part of the garden, Constanze bemoans her sad fate and defies the pasha when he again asks her to marry him. Meanwhile, Pedrillo tells Blonde of Belmonte's arrival and their plot to carry the two ladies off that very night. Blonde hurries off to tell Constanze the happy news.

## Act three

Belmonte appears below Constanze's window, putting his faith in the power of love. Just before midnight, Pedrillo puts a ladder to the window and sings a serenade as the signal to escape. But the noise wakens Osmin who captures the couples, savoring their imminent hanging. When the pasha arrives, Selim recognizes Belmonte as the son of his greatest enemy. Constanze and Belmonte prepare themselves for certain death, but the pasha surprises them by freeing both couples in a magnanimous gesture. Impressed by Selim's great generosity, the couples and the pasha's subjects praise his wisdom and clemency.



Johannes Preissinger (Pedrillo), Thorsten Grümbel (Osmin), Sibylla Duffe (Blonde)  
Adela Zaharia (Konstanze), Jussi Myllys (Belmonte)  
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