

## **Giacomo Meyerbeer: *L'Africaine* (Vasco de Gama), 1837-1863**

Opéra en 5 actes de Eugène Scribe  
Libretto: Eugène Scribe  
Herausgeber der Kritischen Edition: Jürgen Schläder

Besetzung: Don Pedro; Rat des Königs von Portugal (B); Don Diego, Admiral (B); Ines, dessen Tochter (Sop); Vasco da Gama, Seeoffizier (T); Don Alvar, Ratsherr (T); Der Großinquisitor (B); Nelusco, Sklave (Bar); Selica, Sklavin (Sop); Der Oberpriester der Brahmanen (B); Bischöfe, Räte, Marineoffiziere, Matrosen, Soldaten, Volk (Chor)

Uraufführung: Paris, Opéra - 28. April 1865 (in einer „Schlußrevision“ von F.J. Fétis)  
Uraufführung der Kritischen Edition: Chemnitz – 2. Februar 2013  
Dauer: ca. 5 Stunden

### Zum Werk

Plans for this opera date back to 1837. But it was only after the premiere of *Le Prophète* that Meyerbeer got to work on this adventure story about *Vasco da Gama*. Consistent work on the composition dates from March 1861. In his last opera, Meyerbeer again adheres to the typical indecisive hero, ensnared in the spontaneity of his feelings, reacting as a human being, but not as a hero. Meyerbeer was consciously putting himself at odds with the German conception of the hero. Accordingly, the „coloured” roles – Sélika and Nélusko – are more firmly shaped, and more inspired, than those of Vasco and his beloved, Inès.

Meyerbeer died while composing this work. The final editing of the score for the premiere was undertaken by François Joseph Fétis. The critical edition takes account of all the published and unpublished parts of the work that were extant at Meyerbeer's death. The main sources are the autograph of Acts I to IV in Cracow, and of Act V in Berlin, as well as the edition executed by Fétis and published by Brandus in 1865.