

WERNER VAN MECHELEN



Werner Van Mechelen - bass-baritone

www.wernervanmechelen.eu

Versatile Belgian bass-baritone Werner Van Mechelen has achieved great success in opera as well as in concerts and as a recital singer.

Important future engagements:

During the coming seasons Werner Van Mechelen is invited to sing Klingsor PARSIFAL at the **Bayreuther Festspiele Bayreuth**, Heerrufer LOHENGRIN at **La Monnaie Brussels**, Alberich, Wolfram TANNHÄUSER at **Saarländisches Staatstheater Saarbrücken**, Pizarro FIDELIO and Alberich RHEINGOLD at the **Hamburger Staatsoper Hamburg**, Pandolphe CENDRILLON at the **Komische Oper Berlin**.

In concert Werner Van Mechelen can be heard in Carmina Burana (Orff), H-moll-Messe and Matthäus-Passion (Bach), Requiem (Verdi), Songrecitals (Schubert, Mortelmans,...).

His **opera repertoire** extends from the Baroque, such as Telemann's PIMPINONE and Pergolesi's LIVIETTA E TRACOLLO, to great Mozartian roles like Count Almaviva, Figaro, Guglielmo, Don Alfonso, Don Giovanni, Leporello and Papageno. To this he has added roles from Puccini and Verdi: Michele and Gianni Schicchi in IL TRITTICO, Rigoletto, Amonasro, Ford, Berg's WOZZECK and world-premieres by composers Philippe Boesmans, Pascal Dusapin and Christian Jost.

Special focus is on the German repertoire of Wagner and Richard Strauss:

Wagner: Wolfram TANNHÄUSER, Kurwenal TRISTAN UND ISOLDE, Kothner DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG, Amfortas PARSIFAL. He has interpreted many times and with great success the role of Alberich DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN at the **Opéra Royal de Wallonie Liège** (also shown on the Belgian television channel RTBF), **De Nationale Opera Amsterdam**, **Opera Vlaanderen Antwerp-Ghent**, **Teatro La Fenice Venice**. He sang his first Wotan RHEINGOLD at the **Wagner Festival in Sopot**. **Richard Strauss:** Faninal DER ROSENKAVALIER and Musiklehrer ARIADNE OF NAXOS at the **Opéra National du Rhin Strasbourg-Mulhouse**, Jochanaan SALOME at the **Opéra Monte-Carlo**, Mandryka ARABELLA at **Gotteborgs Operan** and at the **Opéra Royal de Wallonie Liège**.

Werner Van Mechelen has a close relationship with the opera houses of Belgium and The Netherlands. At **La Monnaie Brussels** he has sung the title role Berg's WOZZECK, Nekrotzar Ligeti's GRAND MACABRE, Sancho Panza Massenet's DON QUICHOTTE, the

Chambellan YVONNE and the older son AU MONDE by Boesmans. **Opéra Royal de Wallonie Liège** saw him as DON GIOVANNI, Gyges KÖNIG KANDAULES, Karnac ROI D'YS, Fluth LUSTIGE WEIBER VON WINDSOR. **Opera Vlaanderen Antwerp-Ghent** invited him for Vater HÄNSEL UND GRETEL, Ford FALSTAFF, Amonasro AIDA, Geisterbote DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN, Amfortas PARSIFAL and Vater/Richter RUMOR by Christian Jost. At **De Nationale Opera Amsterdam** he has sung a.o Varlaam BORIS GODUNOV, Tierbändiger/Athlet LULU and Alberich DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN.

Furthermore he was invited to the **Opéra d'Avignon** (Pizarro), the **Gran Teatre del Liceu** (Nekrotzar GRAND MACABRE and Cecco del Vecchio RIENZI), **Theater Basel** (Méphistophélès DAMNATION DE FAUST), as well as to the opera houses of Paris, Lyon, Nancy, Zürich, Cologne, Dortmund, Mainz etc.

He has sung under the baton of important Baroque conductors such as Sigiswald Kuijken, Ton Koopman and Marc Minkowski, as well as under Hartmut Haenchen, Jaap van Zweden, Lothar Koenigs, Friedemann Layer, Antonio Pappano, Stefan Soltesz, Jeffrey Tate to name some.

The artist has a particular affection for **concerts** and **Lied-recitals**: his **concert repertoire** extends from BACH JOHANNES-PASSION through romantic works such as ELIAS and BRAHMS DEUTSCHES REQUIEM to the SONG CYCLES and SYMPHONIES of Mahler.

His **Lied repertoire** includes not only the great SONG CYCLES of Schubert, Schumann and Brahms but also repertoire by less known composers. He has worked with Eric Schneider, Lucas Blondeel and Jozef De Beenhouwer.

Recordings show the large variety of his repertoire: Lied CDs – with works by Schubert, Strauss, Debussy, Poulenc, etc. / Oratorio - Mendelssohn ELIAS / Opera: DON GIOVANNI, LE NOZZE DI FIGARO, LIVIETTA E TRACOLLO (Pergolesi), DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG and RHEINGOLD. DVD - Lalo LE ROI D'YS / Massenet DON QUICHOTTE / Ligeti LE GRAND MACABRE.

Werner Van Mechelen studied at the Lemmens Institute at Leuven with Roland Bufkens. He participated in Masterclasses of Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Robert Holl, Mitsuko Shirai, Hartmut Höll and Malcolm King. He gained several international singing prizes, having participated in the prestigious Queen Elisabeth Competition (Brussels), the International Vocalists Competition ('s-Hertogenbosch), the International Singing Competition (Toulouse), the Viñas Competition (Barcelona) and the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition.