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Werner Van Mechelen Bass- Bariton

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

In the summer of 2017, Werner Van Mechelen made his successful debut at the **Bayreuth Festival** with the role of Klingsor in Wagner's PARSIFAL. For the festival 2020/21 there is already a re-invitation for the artist.

In 2019, the artist is invited by the NDR Hamburg under the direction of Alan Gilbert at the **Elbphilharmonie Hamburg** for the leading role in Ligeti's Gran Macabre. At the **Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse** he will perform the role of music teacher in a new production of ARIADNE ON NAXOS.

Guest appearances have also taken him recently as Alberich in THE RING DES NIBELUNGEN to the **Deutsche Oper Berlin** and the **Hamburg State Opera**, as Wolfram in TANNHÄUSER to the **Saarländisches Staatstheater** Saarbrücken, as Heerrufer in LOHENGRIN at **La Monnaie** in Brussels, to the **Hamburg State Opera** as Don Pizarro in FIDELIO, as Alberich in SIEGFRIED at the **Tyrolean Festival** Erl and at the **Komische Oper Berlin** as Pandolphe in Massenet's CENDRILLON.

In addition, Werner Van Mechelen is also very successful in the concert field: For example as a guest of the **Freiburg Bach Choir** for Bach's CHRISTMAS ORATORIUM. For the celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War Werner Van Mechelen has put together a song program **IN FLANDERS FIELDS** that reminds of this historical event under the motto "No more war".

His **lyric repertoire** extends from the baroque repertoire to great Mozart roles like Count Almaviva, Figaro, Don Alfonso, Don Giovanni, Leporello and Papageno, to German and Italian repertoire, including Michele and Gianni Schicchi in Puccini's IL TRITTICO, Scarpia in TOSCA, Amonasro in AIDA and Ford in FALSTAFF – not forgetting masterpieces of the 20th century such as Berg's Wozzeck and many world-creations.

A focus is on the German repertoire of Wagner and Strauss:

Wagner: Wolfram in TANNHÄUSER, Kothner in DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG, Amfortas and Klingsor in PARSIFAL as well as Kurwenal in TRISTAN UND ISOLDE. He has interpreted many times and with great success the role of Alberich in Wagner's RING CYCLE: at the **Opéra Royal de Wallonie** (broadcasted on RTBF), the **Nationale Opera, Amsterdam**, the **Vlaamse Opera, Antwerp** and **Ghent**, the **Teatro la Fenice in Venice**. He sang his first Wotan in RHEINGOLD at the **Wagner Festival in Sopot**. At the **Hamburg State Opera** and in **Bogota** he was Kurwenal in TRISTAN UND ISOLDE.

Strauss: Faninal in DER ROSENKAVALIER and Musiklehrer in ARIADNE OF NAXOS at the **Opéra du Rhin, Strasbourg**, Jochanaan in SALOME at the **Opera Monte Carlo**, Mandryka in ARABELLA at **Göteborgs Operan** and at the **Opéra Royal de Wallonie, Liège**.

Werner Van Mechelen has a close relationship to the opera houses of Belgium and Holland. At **La Monnaie, Brussels** he has sung the title role in Berg's WOZZECK, Nekrotzar in Ligeti's GRAND MACABRE, Sancho Pansa in Massenet's DON QUICHOTTE, the Chambellan YVONNE and the older son in AU MONDE by Boesmans. The **Vlaamse Opera, Antwerp** invited him for Besenbinder in HANSEL AND GRETEL, Ford in FALSTAFF, Amonasro in AIDA, Geisterbote in DIE FRAU OHNE SCHATTEN and Amfortas in PASIFAL. At the **Nederlandse Opera** in Amsterdam he has sung a.o Varlaam in BORIS GODUNOV, Tierbändiger / Athlet in Lulu and Alberich in the RING CYCLE.

Furthermore he was invited to the **Opéra d'Avignon (Pizarro)**, the **Gran teatro del Liceu (Nekrotzar)**, the **Augsburg Opera (Scarpia / TOSCA)** as well as to the opera houses of **Paris, Zürich, Cologne** etc.

Werner Van Mechelen has sung under the baton of **conductors** like: Hartmut Haenchen, Sigiswald Kuijken, Ton Koopman, Antonio Pappano, Marc Minkowski, Bernhard Kontarsky, Gabriel Feltz, Patrick Davin, Jeffrey Tate, Silvio Varviso, Franck Ollu, Stefan Soltesz, Gustav Kuhn, Alexander Joel, Donald Runnicles, Eliahu Inbal, Kent Nagano, Alain Altinoglu und Jaap van Zweden and many important **stage directors** like Laurent Pelly, Oliver Py, Jean Louis Grinda, Damiano Michieletto, Georges Delnon, Guy Joosten, Ivo van Hove, Uwe Eric Laufenberg, Robert Carsen, Tatjana Gürbaca, Pierre Audi, Götz Friedrich, Lorenzo Fioroni, David Freeman und Joël Pommerat.

The artist has a particular affection for **concerts and Lied- recitals**: His **concert repertoire** extends from BACH'S ST JOHN'S PASSION through romantic works such as ELIJAH and BRAHMS REQUIEM, to the SONG CYCLES and SYMPHONIES of Mahler and to composers of the 20th and 21st Century.

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

Werner Van Mechelens **recordings** show the large variety of his repertoire: Lied CDs – with works by Franz Schubert, Richard Strauss, Claude Debussy, Francis Poulenc, etc. / Oratorio: ELIJAH, Mendelssohn / Opera: DON GIOVANNI, LE NOZZE DI FIGARO, LIVIETTA E TRACOLLO (Pergolesi), DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG and RHEINGOLD. DVD- LE ROI D'YS (Eduard Lalo) / DON QUICHOTTE, Massenet / LE GRAND MACABRE (György Ligeti) and STRADELLA (César Franck) Furthermore there are CDs with recordings of Flemish composers like Lodewijk Mortelmans and Peter Benoit .

Werner van Mechelen made his studies at the Lemmens Institute at Leuven with Roland Bufkens and has participated in master classes of Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Robert Holl, Mitsuko Shirai, Hartmut Höll and Malcolm King. He has been awarded with several international prizes the Queen Elisabeth Prize (Brussels), the International Vocalists Competiton ('s-Hertogenbosch), the International Singing Competition (Toulouse), the Vinas Competition (Barcelona) and the Cardiff Singer of the World Competition.