



## 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 summer 2017 Werner Van Mechelen will have his debut at the **Bayreuth Festival** with the role of Klingsor in PARSIFAL. Furthermore he is invited to sing Heerrufer in LOHENGRIN at the **Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels**, Alberich in the RING DES NIBELUNGEN at the **Deutsche Oper Berlin**, at the **Erl Festival**, in **Hongkong** and at the **Hamburg State Opera**, Wolfram in TANNHÄUSER at the **Saarbrück State Theatre** and Don Pizarro in FIDELIO at the **Hamburg State Opera**.

His **lyric repertoire** extends from the baroque, such as Telemann's Pimpinone and Tracollo in Pergolesi's Lievieta 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, Amonasro in Aida and Ford in Falstaff – not forgetting masterpieces of the 20<sup>th</sup> century such as Berg's Wozzeck and world-creations.

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

**Wagner:** Wolfram in TANNHÄUSER, Kothner in DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG, Amfortas 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** (also shown on the television channel RTBF), the **Nederlandse 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** and at the **Hamburg State Opera** and in **Bogota** 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 PARSIFAL. 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.

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, Antonio Pappano, Jeffrey Tate to name some.

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 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Eric Schneider, Lucas Blondeel and Jozef De Beenhouwer.

Werner Van Mechelens **recordings** show the large variety of his repertoire: Lied CDs – with works by Schubert, Strauss, Debussy, 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, Ligeti.

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

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