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Werner Van Mechelen

Bass Bariton

The Belgian bass-baritone Werner Van Mechelen has a very successful international career in opera as well as in concert and for recitals.

In summer 2017 Werner Van Mechelen made his debut at the **Bayreuth Festival** in the role of Klingsor in PARSIFAL with re invitations in 2019 for Hans Sachs in a short version of DIE MEISTERSINGER. In 2021 he is invited to the **Bayreuth festival** to sing the role of **Kothner** in die MEISTERSINGER.

Upcoming engagements (not taking in consideration the corona virus): RHEINGOLD, SIEGFRIED and GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG, Alberich at the **Saarebruck State Theatre**, PARSIFAL Amfortas at the **Hamburg State Opera**, RHEINGOLD and GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG Alberich at the **Leipzig Opera** as well as the title role in Verdi's FALSTAFF and Comte de Norfolk in Saint Saëns' Henry VIII at **La Monnaie, Bruxelles**. Bartolo in LE NOZZE DI FIGARO, Gefolterter in INTOLLERANZA, Hidulfus in GENOVEVA and Klingsor in PARSIFAL at the **Vlaamse Opera, Antwerpen**.

Recently he had been invited for the main role in Ligeti's Gran Macabre with the NDR Hamburg under the baton of Alan Gilbert in the **Elbphilharmonie Hamburg**. At the **Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse** he sang the «Music teacher» in a new production of ARIADNE AUF NAXOS and at the **Vlaamse Opera, Antwerp** the Monk and the Grand Inquisitore in Verdi's DON CARLOS. Further he sang Alberich in RING CYCLES at the **Deutsche Oper Berlin** and at the **Hamburg State Opera** as well as Wolfram in TANNHÄUSER at the **Saarbruck State Theatre**. He was invited for Heerrufer in LOHENGRIN at **La Monnaie, Brussels**, Don Pizarro in FIDELIO at the **Hamburg State Opera**, Alberich in SIEGFRIED at the **Erl Festival** and Pandolphe in Massenet's CENDRILLON at the **Komische Oper Berlin**.

For the 100 Year celebration of the end of the 1st world war he has prepared a program IN FLANDERS FIELDS with songs and chamber music under the motto: "Nevermore War" which he sang all over Belgium.

Werner Van Mechelen's **lyric repertoire** reaches from the baroque repertoire to great Mozart roles like Count Almaviva, Figaro, Don Alfonso, Don Giovanni and Leporello, to German and Italian repertoire, including Michele and Gianni Schicchi in Puccini's II 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 the Netherlands. 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 recitals**: His **concert repertoire** extends from BACH'S PASSIONS to the 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.