

“The 41 year old bass sang the songs with a sonorous, masculine voice, and with a vigor which opposed the texts with vital resistance. Completely different the Russian romances. Noticeably and visibly moved, Groissböck wholeheartedly surrendered to the pain, at times almost screaming it out, and hereby achieved something like catharsis for a wounded soul.”

Klaus Kalchschmid, Süddeutsche Zeitung,
15.07.2018

GÜNTHER GROISSBÖCK

BASS

Biography

Günther Groissböck enchants on the opera and concert stages around the world – with the unique noble sound of his voice and virtually breathtaking verve of performance, he awakens his characters, and makes each song cycle authentically come alive. After his studies at the University for Music and the Performing Arts in Vienna with Robert Holl and José van Dam, the Austrian bass was a member of the ensemble at the Vienna State Opera during the 2002/03 season, and at the Zurich Opera from 2003 to 2007. In 2002 he made his debut at the Salzburg Festival, where – in 2014 – he celebrated his much acclaimed role debut as Ochs in "Der Rosenkavalier" directed by Harry Kupfer. In 2011 he debuted at La Scala in Milan, as well as - as Landgraf Hermann ("Tannhäuser") – at the Bayreuth Festival where he has been a regular guest ever since, singing roles including Gurnemanz ("Parsifal"), Fasolt ("Rheingold") and Pogner in the renowned "Meistersinger" production by Barrie Kosky and Philippe Jordan. In 2022 he will be Wotan and Wanderer in the new Bayreuth "Ring", originally planned for 2020.

As one of the most sought singers of his *fach*, celebrated by audience and media alike, Günther Groissböck guests at the leading opera houses of the world. He has a particular close connection to the Bavarian State Opera where he sings parts including Gremin ("Eugen Onegin"), König Heinrich ("Lohengrin"), Vodník ("Rusalka"), and Kecal ("Verkaufte Braut"), as well as the Metropolitan Opera in New York, where – since his debut in 2010 as Colline ("La Bohème") – he has been heard in roles including Ochs, Landgraf Hermann or Banquo. Guestings bring him to opera houses including the Vienna State Opera, the Paris Opera, La Scala in Milan, the Deutsche Oper, and the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin, where he recently created a furore as Ochs in "Der Rosenkavalier" in February 2020 in the new production by André Heller and Zubin Mehta.

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His particular enthusiasm for art song reveals itself in his programs – created with love for detail and thorough knowledge of repertoire – which he performs in Salzburg, Munich, Vienna and New York. Together with Gerold Huber he recorded the double album “Winterreise”/ “Schwanengesang” as well as “Herz-Tod” with works by Brahms, Wagner, Wolf and Mahler, released by DECCA Classic. Günther Groissböck feels at home in the symphonic repertoire as well – from Haydn's “Creation” to Shostakovitch's Symphony No. 13 “Babi Jar” – he invariably impresses through musical expression, stylistic command, and a particularly clear articulation. Concerts bring him to halls including the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, to the philharmonic halls in Munich and Berlin, the Musikverein and Konzerthaus in Vienna, to Carnegie Hall as well as Boston Symphony Hall. A close collaboration connects him with conductors like Daniel Barenboim, John Eliot Gardiner, Philippe Jordan, James Levine, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Zubin Mehta, Andris Nelsons, Antonio Pappano, Kirill Petrenko, Sir Simon Rattle and Christian Thielemann.

Among his recent DVD releases are “Der Rosenkavalier” (Salzburg, 2015 and The Metropolitan Opera, 2017) as well as Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with Philippe Jordan and the Orchestra of the Paris Opera, further recordings include “Das Rheingold” and “Lohengrin” with Marek Janowski, Mahler's Symphony No. 8 and Anton Bruckner's Mass No. 3.

With his debut as a stage director in 2021 at the Theater an der Wien with “Tristan Experiment”, Günther Groissböck takes on a new exciting challenge; further plans include his role debut as Philipp II. („Don Carlo“) at the Metropolitan Opera, his role debut as Wotan (“Walküre“) and further performances as Ochs (“Rosenkavalier“) at the Vienna State Opera, Landgraf Hermann („Tannhäuser“), Vodník („Rusalka“), and Gurnemanz („Parsifal“) at the Bavarian State Opera, Landgraf Hermann, Wotan („Walküre“) and „Parsifal“ in concert at the Bayreuth Festival 2021, where the complete “Ring” cycle as Wotan / Wanderer - which was cancelled in 2020 - is planned for 2022.

2020/2021

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