

“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

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## GÜNTHER GROISSBÖCK

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BASS

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### 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.

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 Vienna State Opera, 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 Paris Opera, La Scala in Milan, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, as well as 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.

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

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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, as well as an album with traditional Viennese Songs with the Philharmonia Schrammeln. 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; The Metropolitan Opera, 2017, Staatsoper Unter den Linden, 2021) as well as Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with Philippe Jordan and the Orchestra of the Paris Opera, further recordings include "Das Rheingold", "Lohengrin" and "Fidelio" 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 took on a new exciting challenge; further plans include his song recital debut at London's Wigmore Hall, his role debut as Philipp II. („Don Carlo“) at the Metropolitan Opera, Ochs ("Rosenkavalier") at the Vienna State Opera, König Heinrich („Lohengrin“) at the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow as well as Commendatore („Don Giovanni“) at La Scala in Milan.

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