



JOCHEN KUPFER - baritone

Jochen Kupfer's 2011/12 season is dominated by several role debuts: At the State Opera in Nuremberg he is singing Beckmesser in "Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg" for the first time, as well as Germont, the title role in Rossini's "Guillaume Tell" and, in March 2012, Orest in "Elektra". He will also return to the Leipzig Opera as Thoas in Gluck's "Iphigène en Tauride". Concert engagements this season are taking him to New York, Dresden and Rotterdam.

Other forthcoming engagements include "Tannhäuser" (Wolfram) at the New National Theatre Tokyo.

Prior to his recent engagement in Nürnberg, he was a member of the ensemble at Dresden's Semperoper for several seasons, which gave him the opportunity to build into his repertoire important roles like Conte Almaviva, Papageno, Guglielmo and Olivier in "Capriccio".

As a guest he has also appeared at Berlin's State Opera ("Capriccio"), the Bavarian State Opera Munich ("Così fan tutte"), Dresden's Semperoper ("Il barbiere di Siviglia" and "Don Giovanni") and at the opera house in Graz (Wolfram in "Tannhäuser"). In 2008 he made his debut as Jochanaan at the Bremen Theatre. Jochen Kupfer has also participated in various international festivals: Nuits Romantiques in Aix-les-Bains; Ile de France Paris; the Salzburg Festival; Festival International de Musique et d'Art Lyrique Montreux; Schleswig-Holstein-Festival; Ravenna-Festival; and the Festival of Early Music in Boston.

Conductors with whom Jochen Kupfer has worked include Giuseppe Sinopoli, René Jacobs, Philippe Herreweghe, Enoch zu Guttenberg, Kent Nagano, Fabio Luisi, Jeffrey Tate, Peter Schreier, Helmuth Rilling and Trevor Pinnock.

Concerts and recitals have taken him all across Europe, as well as to Japan, Brazil, Hong Kong, and, in the USA, to San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York's Carnegie-Hall. In 1996 he sang Mahler's "Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen" for the first time at Leipzig's Gewandhaus, accompanied by the Gewandhaus Orchestra under Kurt Masur. He is also linked to the actors Katja Riemann and Klaus Maria Brandauer by their collaboration on "Die schöne Magelone" by Johannes Brahms.

He has received international acclaim for his CD recordings of the complete songs of Franz Schreker, Franz Schubert's "Die schöne Müllerin" and Robert Schumann's Kernerlieder and Liederkreis op.24 (Channel Classics), the complete songs of Richard Wagner (Bayer Records), Richard Strauss' opera "Der Friedenstag" (Deutsche Grammophon), as well as Bach cantatas (BIS) and Mozart's Requiem (Faraò).

Jochen Kupfer is winner of the Mozart Festival Competition in Würzburg, as well as the International Johann-Sebastian-Bach-Competition in Leipzig, the VDMK-Competition of the German State, the Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Competition in Berlin and the Meistersänger Competition in Nürnberg. He was also awarded the Luitpold Prize of the Kissinger Summer 2001.

From the age of ten, Jochen Kupfer took vocal lessons at the music school of his hometown, Grimma in Saxony, Germany. He later studied voice with Prof. Helga Forner at Leipzig's music university. He visited master classes with Aldo Baldin, Theo Adam and Elio Battaglia, and rounded off his studies taking voice lessons with Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, Elisabeth Schwarzkopf and Harald Stamm. His first company contract was with the State Theatre of Meiningen, where his stage career began with successes as Graf von Gleichen and Wolfram von Eschenbach.