

Biography - Christoph Stephinger

At the age of 8 he began his musical career with the Regensburger Domspatzen. The concerts in Rome with the Palestrina Choir conducted by Georg Ratzinger at the end of Vatican II shaped his understanding of music.

After his state examination in solo singing at the Munich Musikhochschule, he won first prize at the Mozart Competition in Würzburg and was engaged by August Everding at the Studio of the Bavarian State Opera.

In addition to singing lessons and role studies with KS Kurt Moll, he also completed a master class with Birgit Nilsson.

Permanent engagements led him to the Städtische Bühnen Bielefeld, to the Niedersächsische Staatstheater Hannover and to the Hessische Staatstheater Wiesbaden. He then spent 10 years as an ensemble member at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich. Since 2016 he has been working as a freelancer.

His versatile repertoire includes serious roles such as SARASTRO, KASPAR, GREMIN, RAMFIS, WASSERMANN as well as the bass roles OSMIN, KEZAL, and VAN BETT.

The roles in Strauss and Wagner are particularly close to his heart: BARON OCHS, LA ROCHE, KÖNIG HEINRICH, HUNDING, HAGEN, DALAND, POGNER and GURNEMANZ.

Numerous guest appearances have taken him to the Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Hamburgische Staatsoper, the Deutsche Oper am Rhein, the Frankfurt Opera, the Stuttgart State Opera, the Bavarian State Opera in Munich and to the operas in Nice, Zurich, Graz and Amsterdam. He had the opportunity to perform with conductors such as Spiros ARGIRIS, Hans WALLAT, Christian THIELEMANN, Valery GERGIEV, Zubin MEHTA, Bertrand de BILLY, Kent NAGANO, Constantinos CARYDIS and Asher FISCH. Under the direction of Dan ETTINGER he sang HAGEN in the Götterdämmerung in 2014 in the new Mannheimer Ring staged by Achim FREYER. The entire Ring has also been released on DVD. Also at the Nationaltheater Mannheim he took over the GURNEMANZ, which he sang at the Landestheater Detmold under the direction of Kay METZGER, as well as all bass roles in Wagner's Ring.

As an oratorio and concert singer he has made music, among other things, with the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Colin DAVIS, the SWR Orchestra conducted by Georges PRETRE (La Roche), the WDR and RAI Symphony Orchestras conducted by Gerd ALBRECHT (CD recording: Graf Harasov in "Die Jakobiner"), the Nuova Orchestra Scarlatti under Leopold HAGER (Osmín), the Nederlands Philharmonisch Orkest under Edo DE WAART (Baron Ochs), and the NDR Philharmonie under Eiji OUE (Japan tour as Hunding in "Walküre"). At the Lucerne Festival he sang the Fasolt in "Rheingold" with the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra under Jonathan NOTT.