

Holger Falk, baritone

"Falk sings with a tremendous tonal range that refuses to allow the audience to remain oblivious to the music involved: it is as though the lyrics are biting deeper into the ear with each syllable, each note. (...) Falk's capacity for creativity is sensational", as die ZEIT and the Washington Post reported: "Falk is able to characterize every word so vividly that, if he were singing in Vedic Sanskrit, you'd get the message". Flexibility, vibrancy and immediacy of expression make Holger Falk an internationally sought-after interpreter. With his multiple opera appearances as well as being an avid concert and lieder singer, he is a guest at major houses throughout Europe and the USA, working with renowned conductors and directors.

Holger Falk has a great passion for contemporary music theatre, and several new scores were composed especially for him: he sang the world premières of *The Golden Dragon* by Peter Eötvös at the Oper Frankfurt and at the Bregenz Festival along with *Ein Brief* by Manfred Trojahn at the Oper Bonn and *Septembersonate* by Manfred Trojahn at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf. He has been nominated three times as *singer of the year* by Opernwelt magazine for his outstanding interpretations of Cassandra in Iannis Xenaki's *Oresteia* (2017), Johannes in Georg Friedrich Haas' *Morgen und Abend* (2017) and of Lord Byron in Michael Wertmüller's world première *DIODATI. UNENDLICH* (2019). He has also performed works by composers including Wolfgang Rihm, Kaija Saariaho, Beat Furrer, Georges Aperghis, Bernhard Lang, Miroslav Srnka, Vladimir Tarnopolski and Steffen Schleiermacher and has appeared at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, the Staatsoper Hamburg, the Oper Köln, the Theater an der Wien, the Theater Basel, the Théâtre de la Monnaie Brussels, the Teatro Real Madrid, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées Paris and the National Opera Warsaw.

Holger Falk regularly works with contemporary ensembles such as the Klangforum Wien, Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Resonanz, Musikfabrik NRW, Doelen Ensemble Rotterdam, Basel Sinfonietta as well as with baroque ensembles including the Ensemble Elyma Genève (Monteverdi's *Orfeo*), Elbipolis Hamburg (Graupner's *Dido*), the Concerto Köln (Hasse's *Leucippo*.) and the Kammerakademie Potsdam (Mendelssohn's *Elias*).

Holger Falk will kick-off the new season 2024/25 performing the programme *Il Gondoliere Veneziano* at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Peter Maxwell Davies' *Eight Songs for a Mad King* in Espoo (Finland) as well as a Schönberg-Ives-recital on the opening-weekend of the Musikfest Berlin 2024 at the Philharmonie Berlin. Subsequently, he will sing the revival of *Septembersonate* (Manfred Trojahn) at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf and of *Amopera* with the Klangforum Wien at the Wiener Konzerthaus. Together with the WDR Symphony Orchestra, he will première the new work *mein Fleisch* by Gordon Kampe at the Kölner Philharmonie and Philharmonie Essen this autumn. Further concerts and recitals are scheduled at the Oxford International Song Festival, at Musik Plus in Hall (Austria) as well as at the Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest.

Holger Falk's range of CD productions, including a four-part series of songs by Hanns Eislers (MDG), the complete recordings of the *Mélodies et Chansons* by Erik Satie and all 115 *mélodies* by Francis Poulenc (MDG) and *Il Gondoliere Veneziano – a musical voyage through Venice* (Prospero), received prestigious awards: German Record Critics' Award 2017, *CD of the Month* (Opernwelt), Gramophone Editor's Choice Award, ECHO Klassik Award 2016 and Opus Klassik 2019 as *Singer of the Year* and *best solo-recording vocal: Lied 2019*. As Pizzicato writes of Holger Falk's song interpretations: "[Holger Falk] does not attempt to artificially refine the songs, but instead sings them as genuinely as possible with the particular timbre of the genre, spirit and power matched with sparkling rhetoric, sometimes calmly contemplative, sometimes spirited and passionate or even teasing". In 2022, the CD *Keintate I, II* (Friedrich Cerha) has been released (Kairos) together with the attensam quartett.

Holger Falk began singing as a boy with the famous Regensburg Cathedral Boys' Choir followed by vocal studies at the Würzburg Conservatory, in Milan with Sigune von Osten, Franco Corelli and with Neil Semer, among others. Holger Falk is professor of Lied interpretation and performances practice for contemporary music at the renowned University of Music and Performing Arts Graz.

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