

Dietrich Henschel (Baritone / Germany)

BIOGRAPHY

“Baritone Dietrich Henschel is a towering figure, physically, intellectually, musically and theatrically. His prowess as an interpreter, by which I mean precisely his ability to get below the surface of a song and right into its soul, is extraordinary.” Herald Scotland

Baritone Dietrich Henschel captivates audiences as a regular guest at major opera houses, an esteemed interpreter of lieder and oratorios as well as with his multimedia projects. His repertoire stretches from Monteverdi to the avant-garde. His international career started in 1998, when at the Deutsche Oper Berlin he took the title role in Hans Werner Henze's *Prinz von Homburg*, staged by Götz Friedrich, and gave an outstanding lead performance in Busoni's *Doktor Faust* at the Opéra de Lyon and the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris (2000), for which he won a Grammy.

The singer's major roles include Rossini's Figaro, Wolfram in Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, Monteverdi's *Ulisse* and *Orfeo*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Beckmesser in Wagner's *Die Meistersingervon Nürnberg*, Alban Berg's *Wozzeck* and Dr. Schön in *Lulu*, Golaud in Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* and Nick Shadow in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*, with which he makes regular appearances at the major European opera houses. Contemporary composers such as Péter Eötvös, Detlev Glanert, Manfred Trojahn, Unsuk Chin, Peter Ruzicka and José-Maria Sanchez-Verdu have all dedicated leading roles in their operas to the baritone.

In addition to his operatic work, Dietrich Henschel is committed to the performance of lieder and concert works for voice. In orchestral concerts he has worked with conductors such as Riccardo Chailly, Kent Nagano, Cornelius Meister, Sylvain Cambreling and Semyon Bychkov. His collaborations with John Eliot Gardiner, Philippe Herreweghe, Nikolaus Harnoncourt and Colin Davis are documented on numerous oratorio recordings. Dietrich Henschel is particularly interested in theatrical and multimedia presentations of vocal music. He has performed staged versions of Schubert lieder cycles at La Monnaie, Theater an der Wien, Den Norske Opera Oslo and the Komische Oper Berlin, among others. In projects with orchestral songs by Hugo Wolf (*IRRSAL*) and by Gustav Mahler (*WUNDERHORN*) he combined film and live concert; they were developed as a co-production between several European partners including De Doelen, La Monnaie and the BBC Symphony Orchestra London.

Most recently his project *X-MAS CONTEMPORARY* was realized in collaboration with conductor Vladimir Jurowski and the ensemble unitedberlin: twelve composers were asked to write a Christmas Carol of the 21st century for baritone and ensemble. The world premiere at the Konzerthaus Berlin happened in December 2019, the recording of the project was a coproduction with DEUTSCHLANDFUNK KULTUR and was acclaimed as the *most exciting idea for Christmas* (Rondo Magazine).

Henschel's charismatic singing is the connecting factor for this varied Christmas album. (De Volkskrant, Amsterdam)