



Leigh Melrose Baritone



Leigh Melrose, “the specialist of 20th-century opera” (The Financial Times), has carved out a formidable reputation for the performance of new works and dramatic 20th century repertoire. A wonderfully dynamic artist in both operas and concerts, his performances as *Wozzeck* (Opernhaus Zürich and English National Opera); Enescu’s *Œdipe* (Komische Oper Berlin), Alberich *Das Rheingold* (Wiener Staatsoper, Ruhrtriennale and English National Opera) Clov in the world premiere of György Kurtág’s *Fin de Partie* (Teatro alla Scala, Opéra de Paris and Dutch National Opera) and Prospero in Thomas Adès’ *The Tempest* (Teatro Alla Scala) have earned wide critical and public acclaim.

In the 2023/24 season he makes anticipated returns to Ruhrtriennale as Šiškov in a new production by Dimitri Tcherniakov of Janáček’s *From the House of the Dead* and to Teatro alla Scala as Ned Keene in a new *Peter Grimes* directed by Robert Carsen. He also makes two hugely exciting role debuts, as Don Pizarro *Fidelio* at the Staatsoper Hamburg, and Beckmesser *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at the Teatro Real in a new production by acclaimed French director Laurent Pelly.

Last season included a series of very exciting projects and role debuts: as Prospero in Thomas Adès’ *The Tempest* at Teatro alla Scala; Richard Nixon in John Fulljames’s new production of *Nixon in China* at Teatro Real; Šiškov in Krzysztof Warlikowski’s new production of *From the House of the Dead* at the Fondazione Teatro dell’Opera di Roma; and the world premiere of Héctor Parra’s *Orgia*, after Pier Paolo Pasolini’s play in a project imagined by Calixto Bieto at the Teatro Arriaga Antzokia in Bilbao. He also performed Alberich in Richard Jones’ much-anticipated new production of *Das Rheingold* at the ENO to an overwhelmingly positive public and critical reception. In concert, Melrose also reprised the role of Alberich with the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra.

Other recent highlights include a hugely acclaimed debut in the title role of Enescu’s *Œdipe* in a new production at the Komische Oper Berlin; Nekrotzar in a new production of Ligeti’s *Le Grand Macabre* in Zürich; debuts at Staatsoper Stuttgart as Alberich *Das Rheingold* and the Opéra national de Paris as Clov *Fin de Partie*; Ruprecht in Calixto Bieto’s production of Prokofiev *The Fiery Angel* at Teatro Real and Kajin in Bieto’s new production of Rudi Stephan’s *Die ersten Menschen* at Dutch National Opera.

One of the most sought-after interpreters of contemporary music, Leigh Melrose has given many world premieres, including Louis Andriessen’s exhilarating *Theatre of the World* at Dutch National Opera and with the Los Angeles Philharmonic; Dai Fujikura’s *Solaris* - a co-production between Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Opéra de Lille and Opéra de Lausanne; Johannes Kalitzke’s *Die Besessenen* at Theater an der Wien; Elliot Carter’s *On Conversing with Paradise* at the Aldeburgh Festival under Oliver Knussen (also nominated for a Gramophone Award for ‘Best Contemporary Album’); Luca Francesconi’s *Quartett* at Royal Opera House; and Evan in James MacMillan’s *The Sacrifice* at Welsh National Opera. Other performances include his debut at the Maggio Musicale Festival in Florence singing Rihm’s *Der maler träumt*; the title role in Birtwistle’s *Gawain* with BBC Symphony Orchestra; Matthias Pintscher’s *Songs from Solomon’s Garden* with the Ensemble Intercontemporain in Paris conducted by the composer; Rambo in the Channel 4 television film of John Adams’ *The Death of Klinghoffer*; Michael Collins in Jonathan Dove’s TV opera *Man on the Moon* for Channel 4; Punch in Birtwistle’s *Punch and Judy* in Porto; Xenakis’ *Ais* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the BBC Proms and Berlin Festival; Peter Maxwell Davies’ *The Martyrdom of St Magnus* at the composer’s St Magnus Festival in Orkney, Edinburgh, and Inverness; Maxwell-Davies’ *Eight Songs for a Mad King* with the Orquesta de Cadaqués in Madrid, with the London Sinfonietta at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, with BIT20 in Bergen and with the Arctic Philharmonic Orchestra; Michael Finnissy’s *Maldon* with the London Sinfonietta at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and the world premiere of Martin Suckling’s *Candlebird*, also with the London Sinfonietta under Nicholas Collon.

Leigh Melrose is represented by MWA worldwide.
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