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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 2026-27 season, Melrose returns to English National Opera for a new production directed by Annilese Miskimmon of Kaija Saariaho's *Adriana Mater* as Tsargo. He stars in a new production of John Adams' *Dr Atomic* as Robert Oppenheimer, directed by Vanessa Beecroft and conducted by Elim Chan and also returns to Opéra national de Paris for the world premiere of Hèctor Parra's *Miroir de nos peines* directed by Mariame Clément and conducted by Ingo Metzmacher.

Last season, Melrose began with a double appearance as Clov in Kurtág's *Fin de Partie* at the Enescu Festival and the Norwegian National Opera before he made his house debut at Grand Théâtre de Genève as Golaud *Pelléas et Mélisande*. He joined the Berliner Philharmoniker and Kirill Petrenko as Alberich *Das Rheingold* at the Salzburg Easter Festival. Melrose also collaborated again with acclaimed director, Calixto Bieito in two projects – Hèctor Parra's *Orgia* with Ensemble intercontemporain and Shostakovich's *Symphony No. 14* at Teatro Arriaga. Other engagements included the baritone soloist in Lili Boulanger's *Faust et Hélène*; Nekrotzar *Le grand Macabre* at the Helsinki Festival; and Britten's *War Requiem* at Southwark Cathedral with the Outcry Ensemble.

Recent successes include Balstrode (Dutch National Opera) and Ned Keene *Peter Grimes* (Teatro alla Scala and Staatsoper Hamburg); Don Pizarro *Fidelio* (Staatsoper Hamburg); Eurymaque in Fauré's *Pénélope* (Bayerische Staatsoper); Beckmesser *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (Teatro Real); Šiškov *From the House of the Dead* (Ruhrtriennale); *Das grosse Feuer* by Beat Furrer (Opernhaus Zürich); Prospero in Thomas Adès' *The Tempest* (Teatro alla Scala); Clov in György Kurtág's *Fin de Partie* (Teatro alla Scala, Dutch National Opera, Opéra national de Paris); Enescu's *Œdipe* (Komische Oper Berlin); Nekrotzar *Le Grand Macabre* (Opernhaus Zürich); Ruprecht *The Fiery Angel* (Opernhaus Zürich); Alberich *Das Rheingold* (Staatsoper Stuttgart, English National Opera and Ruhrtriennale); Kajin in Bieito's new production of Rudi Stephan's *Die ersten Menschen* (Dutch National Opera); and the world premiere of Héctor Parra's *Orgia*, after Pier Paolo Pasolini's play in a project imagined by Calixto Bieito at the Teatro Arriaga. Closely associated with Teatro Real, Madrid his many triumphs there include The Traveller *Death in Venice*; Friedrich *Das Liebesverbot*; Ruprecht *The Fiery Angel* and Richard Nixon *Nixon in China* for which he was awarded one of the Artistic Prizes at the 3rd Teatro Real Awards in recognition for his extraordinary contribution to several productions at the Teatro Real.

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 Ballet & Opera; and Evan in James MacMillan's *The Sacrifice* at Welsh National Opera. Other performances include his debut at the Teatro 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.
2026-27 season / 765 words. Not to be altered without permission