



Lauri Vasar

Bass-baritone



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Estonian bass-baritone Lauri Vasar was born in Tallinn and studied there and at the Salzburg Mozarteum. He made his stage debut at the Salzburg Festival in 2003 (*Die Bakchantinnen*, *Don Carlos*). Notable engagements include appearances as Gunther and Donner in Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, Orest (*Elektra*), Amfortas (*Parsifal*), the title role of *Le nozze di Figaro* and Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*) for the Staatsoper Berlin; Olivier (*Capriccio*) for Opéra national de Paris, Lyon Opera and La Monnaie, Brussels; Orest and Gunther for Teatro Real, Madrid; Kovalyov (*The Nose*) for Zurich Opera; Wolfram (*Tannhäuser*) and Amfortas for Budapest Wagner Days; and the title role of *Il prigioniero* for Athens Opera. Other roles in his repertory include Shaklovity (*Khovanshchina*), Marcello (*La bohème*), Belcore (*L'elisir d'amore*), Yeletsky (*The Queen of Spades*), Escamillo (*Carmen*), Lescaut (*Manon Lescaut*), the Forester (*The Cunning Little Vixen*) and the title roles of *Don Giovanni* and *Eugene Onegin*.

Engagements this season include Varlaam in *Boris Godunov* and Kurwenal in *Tristan und Isolde* at the Staatsoper Hamburg; Barak *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, Orest *Elektra*, Amfortas *Parsifal* and Gunther *Götterdämmerung*, all at Staatsoper unter den Linden and Wolfram *Tannhäuser* at the Budapest Wagner Days. Recent successes include a highly acclaimed Papageno *Die Zauberflöte* at San Francisco Opera where Vasar was described as 'the star of the show' (Opera Today); Sharpless *Madama Butterfly* at the Royal Ballet & Opera; Graf von Gloster *Lear* at Teatro Real and Orest *Elektra* at Staatsoper unter den Linden.

Other highlights include King *Lessons in Love and Violence* (Opernhaus Zürich); Orest *Elektra* (Staatsoper Hamburg); Papageno *Die Zauberflöte* and Wolfram *Tannhäuser* (Estonian National Opera); Gunther and Donner *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (Staatsoper unter den Linden); Gunther *Götterdämmerung* (Teatro Real); Donner *Das Rheingold* (Opéra national de Paris); Sharpless *Madama Butterfly* (Staatsoper unter den Linden); and Don Carlos *Bethrothal in a Monastery* (Staatsoper unter den Linden).

Vasar has sung under the baton of many renowned conductors such as Daniel Barenboim, Christian Thielemann, Simone Young, Bertrand de Billy, Sebastian Weigle, Kirill Petrenko, Adam Fischer, Peter Schneider and Gustavo Dudamel and has worked with acclaimed directors such as Robert Carsen, Stefan Herheim, Calixto Bieto, Peter Stein, and Christoph Loy and was nominated for the Faust Prize for his portrayal of *Billy Budd* at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein.

Lauri Vasar is represented by MWA worldwide
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