KünstlerSekretariat am Gasteig oHG

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Biography - Christof Fischesser, Bass

Christof Fischesser grew up in a musical family, received early instrumental training and gained his first stage experience singing in choirs and ensembles. He studied voice with Prof. Martin Gründler at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst Frankfurt am Main. In 2000, he was awarded First Prize at the German National Singing Competition (*Bundeswettbewerb Gesang*) in Berlin.

Following engagements at the Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, the Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin (from 2004) and the Opernhaus Zürich (2012–2015), Christof Fischesser established himself as one of the most distinguished basses of his generation.

He opens the 2026/27 season as Landgraf Hermann in Wagner's *Tannhäuser* at the Opernhaus Zürich. At the Vienna State Opera, he performs Gurnemanz in *Parsifal* and Pogner in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. At the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, he takes on the role of Orest in Strauss' *Elektra*. His concert engagements include Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* with Fabio Luisi in Rome and with Paavo Järvi in Zürich, as well as Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* with the MDR-Sinfonieorchester Leipzig under the baton of Dennis Russell Davies.

His repertoire encompasses the major bass roles of the German and Italian operatic traditions. His signature parts include Baron Ochs (*Der Rosenkavalier*), King Marke (*Tristan und Isolde*), Hunding (*Die Walküre*), Orest (*Elektra*), Rocco (*Fidelio*), Gurnemanz (*Parsifal*), Pogner (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) and Blaubart (*Herzog Blaubarts Burg*), as well as Sir Giorgio (*I Puritani*), Fiesco (*Simon Boccanegra*), Banco (*Macbeth*), Conte di Walter (*Luisa Miller*) and Méphistophélès (*Faust* by Gounod). He has appeared at leading international opera houses including the Vienna State Opera, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in London, the Opéra national de Paris, the Teatro Real Madrid, the Bavarian State Opera Munich, the Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin, the Semperoper Dresden, the Opéra de Lyon and Lyric Opera of Chicago, as well as in Amsterdam, Antwerp, Basel, Copenhagen and Stockholm.

He has been a guest artist at the Salzburg Festival, the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence and the Bregenz Festival, where he performed Kaspar in Philipp Stölzl's production of Weber's *Der Freischütz* on the lakeside stage.

Equally sought after as a concert artist, Christof Fischesser's repertoire ranges from Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* and Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* and *Ninth Symphony* to Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*, Mendelssohn's *Elias* and Brahms' *Vier ernste Gesänge*. He has collaborated with conductors including Claudio Abbado, Bernard Haitink, Daniel Barenboim, Kent Nagano, Antonio Pappano, Philippe Jordan, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Kirill Petrenko and Fabio Luisi.

His artistic work is documented in numerous CD and DVD recordings, including Beethoven's

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Fidelio with Claudio Abbado, Massenet's *Manon* with Daniel Barenboim and Wagner's *Lohengrin* with Kent Nagano.

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