



Biography - Franz-Josef Selig, Bass

Franz-Josef Selig is one of the most renowned singers internationally for serious bass roles such as Gurnemanz, King Marke, Sarastro, Rocco, Osmin, Daland, Fiesco, and Fasolt. He is at home in all the world's major opera houses (including the Bavarian State Opera, Vienna State Opera, La Scala in Milan, Teatro Real Madrid, the Paris opera houses, and the Metropolitan Opera in New York) as well as at prestigious festivals such as Bayreuth, Baden-Baden, Salzburg, and Aix-en-Provence. He has worked and continues to work with renowned orchestras and conductors, including Christian Thielemann, Sir Simon Rattle, Marek Janowski, Zubin Mehta, Semyon Bychkov, Riccardo Muti, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Manfred Honeck, Antonio Pappano, Philippe Jordan, Daniel Harding, and many others.

The artist first completed his studies in church music at the Cologne University of Music before transferring to Claudio Nicolai's university singing class. He initially spent six years as a member of the ensemble at the Aalto Theater in Essen. Since then, Franz-Josef Selig has been working as a freelance singer.

The 2025/26 season will take the artist to Geneva as Landgraf in Wagner's *Tannhäuser* under the baton of Mark Elder. He will return to the Vienna State Opera as Gurnemanz in *Parsifal* and as Daland in *The Flying Dutchman*. He will be heard as King Marke in *Tristan and Isolde* at the Hamburg State Opera and in a concert performance with the London Symphony Orchestra under Antonio Pappano, in Salzburg at the Mozart Week under the baton of Roberto González-Monjas as Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*, and in Mozart's *Requiem*, which he will also perform in Valencia under Alexander Liebreich. He will perform Beethoven's *Missa solemnis* in Boston under Andris Nelsons.

Numerous CD and DVD productions document the artistic range of this exceptional singer—from Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* to Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (Royal Opera London/Sir Colin Davis), *Don Giovanni* (Vienna State Opera/Riccardo Muti), *Le nozze di Figaro* (Salzburg Festival/Nikolaus Harnoncourt), *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona/Ivor Bolton/Christoph Loy) to *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona/David Alden/Harry Bicket).

He has recorded the role of Gurnemanz in Wagner's *Parsifal* with Christian Thielemann (Vienna State Opera, released by Deutsche Grammophon) and with Marek Janowski and the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra (Pentatone). The DVD of the production *The Ring of the Nibelung* (DG, produced by the Metropolitan Opera New York) with Franz-Josef Selig as Fasolt won the Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording in 2013. A DVD of *The Flying Dutchman* from the Bayreuth Festival (Thielemann/Gloger) has now been released. Deutsche Grammophon has released recordings of Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio* and *The Magic Flute* conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin. On his

KünstlerSekretariat am Gasteig oHG

Elisabeth Ehlers - Lothar Schacke - Verena Vetter

Montglasstraße 2
81679 München

Tel.: +49 (0)89 4448879-0
Fax: +49 (0)89 4489522
E-Mail: team@ks-gasteig.de



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CD "Prometheus" (AVI label), accompanied by Gerold Huber, he combines songs by Schubert, Wolf, and Strauss.