

## Mika Kares

Bass



Mika Kares comes from Finland and studied at the Sibelius-Academy and with Professor Roland Hermann. He was a member of the solo ensemble of the Baden State Opera from 2005 to end of the season 2010. Mr. Kares has made a name for himself as a Wagner, Verdi and Händel singer in particular. Guest appearances have taken him to Hong Kong, Beijing, Rome, Seattle and Valencia where he has worked with such great conductors as Lorin Maazel and Zubin Mehta, among others.

Most recently, Mr. Kares has performed in *Acis and Galatea* at the Salzburg Mozart Week; as Truffaldino in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Angelotti in *Tosca*, and in *Fidelio* at Palau de les Arts in Valencia; and the title role in *Attila* at Seattle Opera. Mr.

Kares will be joining the roster of the Metropolitan Opera in their 2012/2013 season in their productions of *Rigoletto* and *Das Rheingold*. Upcoming engagements also include Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam; performing in the 100th Anniversary gala concert, as Ramfis in *Aida*, and Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Savonlinna Opera Festival; the 30th anniversary gala of Les Musicienne de Louvre with Maestro Marc Minkowski; Phillip II in *Don Carlo* for Finnish National Opera; Ramfis in *Aida* at Bayerische Staatsoper; Fasolt in *Das Rheingold* at the Teatro Maggio Musicale in Florence; and he will perform Fafner in *Das Rheingold*, Hunding (cover) in *Die Walküre*, Fafner (cover) in *Siegfried*, Hagen (cover) in *Götterdämmerung* in Palau de les Artes' Ring Cycle.

Mr. Kares made his professional debut in 2005 at the Ilmajoki Music Festival, where he played the Sheriff in Leevi Madetoja's opera *Ostrobothnians*. Subsequently, his career expanded very rapidly in Germany. In his first two seasons there, he acquired a large repertoire, including the following roles: Timur (*Turandot*), Colline (*La Bohème*), Angelotti (*Tosca*), Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*), and Bartolo (*Le Nozze di Figaro*). He also performed his first *Der Ring des Nibelungen* and debuted in the following roles for it: Fafner (*Das Rheingold*), Hunding (*Die Walküre*) and Fafner (*Siegfried*).

In the 2007/2008 season, he went on contract at Karlsruhe, Germany, where he further expanded his repertoire to include several new roles: Il Commendatore in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Vodník in *Rusalka*, and Johann in *Werther*. He also repeated the roles of King Philip in *Don*

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*Mika Kares, cont'd.*

*Carlo*, Don Basilio in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Fasolt in *Das Rheingold*, Ein Eremit in *Der Freischütz*, Timur in *Turandot*, Masetto in *Don Giovanni*, and Verdi's *Requiem*. Mr. Kares then made his debut at the Savonlinna Opera Festival in the title role of Boito's *Mefistofele* in the summer of 2008. He received an Artist of the Year prize there and sang his own concert in Savonlinna in July 2008.

For the 2008/2009 season, Mr. Kares sang the following roles while at Karlsruhe: Basilio in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*; Ein Eremit Samiel in *Der Freischütz*; King Philip in *Don Carlos*; Lodovico in *Otello*; Bartolo in *Le Nozze di Figaro*; Radamisto in *King Farasmane*; Hunding in *Die Walküre*; and Fafner in *Das Rheingold*. He also performed Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Savonlinna.

Other roles in his repertoire include Ramfis and Il Re in *Aida*, and Massimiliano Moor in *Masnadieri*. Mika Kares holds a Wagner scholarship in 2010, was awarded "Der Goldene Fächer" as the best singer of the Baden State Opera 2009, and was Savonlinna Opera Festival's Artist of the Year 2008.

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