

Stephen Owen

Bass-Baritone



Bass-baritone Stephen Owen was born in Kunming, China, and grew up in California. After acquiring degrees in philosophy (Wheaton College) and theology (Princeton Theological Seminary), he sang for several years in the United States.

He began his international career in 1990 in Salzburg as Gunther in *Götterdämmerung*. The German repertoire has remained central to his career. He has sung the role of Don Pizarro in *Fidelio* in ten productions (including Graz, Darmstadt, Weimar, Klagenfurt, Pisa, Syracuse, Tours and Reims). He has also appeared as Don Fernando in the same opera in Rio de Janeiro and at Carnegie Hall, New York City. He has sung the title role in *Der fliegende Holländer* in several productions, including Graz, Kassel, Aachen, Rennes, Schloss Neuschwanstein and Rostock. He sang his first Jochanaan in *Salome* in Las Vegas and repeated the role in Teatro Massimo/Palermo, Nantes and Graz. His first appearance in Tours was as Kaspar in *Der Freischütz*. He sang the roles of Kurwenal in *Tristan und Isolde*, Orest in *Elektra*, and Peter in *Hänsel und Gretel* in Graz, Alberich (*Das Rheingold*) in Dortmund and the Herald in *Lohengrin* in Spoleto, Italy.

Alban Berg's *Lulu* has played a significant role in Mr. Owen's career. He debuted at Teatro Colón, Buenos Aires as the Animal Trainer/Athlete. In 2001 he moved up to the leading role of Dr. Schön at Teatro Massimo, Palermo. Additional twentieth-century repertoire has included Bluebeard in *Bluebeard's Castle* (Graz, Salzburg), Kissinger in *Nixon in China* (English National Opera), Grandpa Moss in Copland's *The Tender Land* (BBC Symphony) and Creon/Messenger in *Oedipus Rex*. In 1999 he sang the principal role of the Teufel in Gerd Kühr's *Tod und Teufel*, composed for the centenary of the Graz Opera, and in 2004 the role of the Conductor in Battistelli's *Prova d'Orchestra* in Linz, a role he repeated in Antwerp, Ghent and Nürnberg. The Belgian production is documented on a Ricordi/Stradivarius CD.

Mr. Owen's Italian repertoire includes both bass and baritone roles. He portrayed both Schaunard and Colline in *La Bohème* in Graz, where he also sang Amonasro, Sharpless, Alfio, Leporello, Sparafucile and Raimondo. His Scarpia in *Tosca* in Aachen was televised nationally in Germany. His French repertoire includes Escamillo (Graz, Kuala Lumpur) and the Four Villains (Klagenfurt, Aachen).

From 2005 to 2008 he was engaged in Kassel, where he repeated the roles of Kurwenal and the Four Villains and added the roles of Paolo (*Simone Boccanegra*), Musiklehrer (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), Tod (*Kaiser von Atlantis*) and Balstrode (*Peter Grimes*) to his repertoire.

In 2009 Mr. Owen joined the ensemble in Augsburg, where he will again sing Don Pizarro and Kurwenal, along with the Grand Inquisitor in *Don Carlo* and Dr. Vigelius in *Der Ferne Klang*. He will also continue to sing the leading role of the Officer in Opéra National de Lyon's production of Philip Glass' *In the Penal Colony* at various European venues, including eight performances in Paris in April 2010.