

Jukka Rasilainen

Bass-Baritone



The Finnish bass-baritone **Jukka Rasilainen** studied in Rome with maestra Tina Sciapini-Rella. While still a student, he debuted in *Don Giovanni* (Leporello) under the direction of Gian Carlo del Monaco. 1985-86 he became a member of the Opera Studio Zurich. Between 1986 and 1993, he had a fixed contract as a bass-baritone and heroic baritone with the Städtische Bühnen Dortmund and the Vereinigte Städtische Bühnen Krefeld/Mönchengladbach. There he acquired a large repertoire, including the following: *Wozzek* (title role), *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Raimondo), *Falstaff* (title role), *Nabucco* (title role), *Salome* (Jochanaan), and *Tosca* (Scarpia). In 1991, Mr. Rasilainen debuted in Flensburg in Wagner's opera *Der Fliegende Holländer* in the title role. He then sang this part with great success in more than 12 productions at the Vienna State Opera, State Opera Unter Den Linden Berlin, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Saxon State Opera Dresden, Tokyo, and Savonlinna. In 1992 he debuted at the Saxon State Opera Dresden, and he is still linked to this house through a

residential contract. There, he participated in 10 new productions and premières: *The Freeshooter* (Kaspar), *Tosca* (Scarpia), *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Forester), *Tristan und Isolde* (Kurwenal), *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Figaro), *Aida* (Amonasro), *Il Tabarro* (Michele), *Carmen* (Escamillo - twice, in a production of Harry Kupfer as well as in the new production of Konstanze Lauterbach), *Rakes's Progress* (Nick Shadow), *Das Rheingold* (Wotan), *Die Walküre* (Wotan), *Siegfried* (Wanderer) and in *Frau ohne Schatten* (Barak). The additional repertory he sang in Dresden includes: *Der Fliegende Holländer* (title role), *Fidelio* (Pizarro), *Don Giovanni* (Leporello), *Le nozze di Figaro* (Count), *Lohengrin* (Heerufere), and *Salome* (Jochanaan). In 1993 he debuted in *Nabucco* (Zaccharia) at the Bregenz Festival. In addition, he has been a regular guest at the National Opera Finland since 1994, where he already sang the following parts: *Otello* (Jago), *Tosca* (Scarpia), *Rheingold* (Wotan), *Walküre* (Wotan), *Siegfried* (Wanderer), *Carmen* (Escamillo) and *Frau ohne Schatten* (Barak).

In 2000 he sang Wagner's new Ring Cycle in Helsinki in a production of Götz Friedrich's. In 1997, Osmo Vänskä contracted him for the BBC Proms Festival in London as a solo singer in Sibelius' "Kullervo Symphony" (Kullervo). In 1995 he debuted as Amfortas in *Parsifal* at the Opéra De Montpellier. He sang this part also in 1998 at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden with Plácido Domingo as Parsifal, at the Teatro Dell' Opera Di Roma, at the Opéra Bastille De Paris and at the Saxon State Opera Dresden. From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Rasilainen sang the new

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Jukka Rasilainen, cont'd.

Ring of the Nibelung (Wotan, Wanderer) in a production of Robert Wilson and under the direction of Franz Welser-Möst at the Zurich Opera House. Another important première was Strauss' *Elektra* (Orest) in a production of Martin Kušej and under the direction of Christoph von Dohnany in 2003, again in Zurich.

In 2003 he sang in *Lohengrin* (Telramund) at the Edinburgh Opera Festival under the direction of Donald Runnicles in a production of Keith Warner, *Siegfried* (Wanderer) in Tokyo, *Tristan und Isolde* (Kurwenal) and *Falstaff* (title role) in Taiwan, and he debuted at the Bavarian State Opera in *Arabella* (Mandryka) and *Fidelio* (Pizarro). In 2004 he received the title Kammersänger at the Saxon State Opera from the Free State of Saxony. In 2005 he debuted in *Der Fliegende Holländer* (title role) at the Bayreuth Festival. Additional highlights of the season 2005-2006 have been *Tristan und Isolde* (Kurwenal) with Ben Heppner and Waltraud Meier in a production of Peter Sellars and under the direction of Esa-Pekka Salonen, and a new production of the *Ring of the Nibelung* at the Théâtre Du Châtelet (Wanderer, Wotan) produced by Robert Wilson and under the direction of Christoph Eschenbach. His engagements for the season 2006-2007 include the following productions: *Das Rheingold* (Wotan), *Siegfried* (Wanderer), *Die Walküre* (Wotan), *Carmen* (Escamillo), *Tristan und Isolde* (Kurwenal), *Frau ohne Schatten* (Barak) and *Der Fliegende Holländer* (title role) at the Saxon State Opera Dresden, a Wagner concert tour in the Tonhalle Zurich, the Salle Stravinski Montreux, the Casino Basle, the Casino Geneva and the Tonhalle St. Gallen, and *Der Fliegende Holländer* (title role) at the Bavarian.

Brian P. Jauhiainen, Manager
brian@belcantoglobal.com
718.772.4024

Amy D. Stuemky, Business Manager
amy@belcantoglobal.com
303.594.6649