

## **Martin Achrainer, Bass-Baritone**

"His warm, lyrical voice is easy on the ear" (New York Times, 11/2009)

Baritone Martin Achrainer, a native of Austria, completed his theatrical training at Vienna's renowned Max Reinhardt Seminar before commencing his training in classical singing with Rotraud Hansmann at the city's University of Music and Performing Arts. Other formative teachers included Brigitte Fassbaender, Robert Holl and Charles Spencer. He has forged an intensive collaboration with Irina Gavrilovici. He was engaged at the Tyrolean State Theatre from 2004 to 2006 and has been a permanent member of the opera ensemble at the Linz State Theatre since the 2006/2007 season. He is a recipient of the German Drama Prize, awarded by the Doppelfeld Foundation, for his interpretation of Papageno at the Schloss Rheinsberg opera festival in Berlin. He has also won prizes at a number of international singing competitions, including the Robert Schumann Contest, the Hugo Wolf Prize (Vienna), the Gradus ad Parnassum, and the Hilde Zadek Competition for literature of the 20th century (Vienna). This has opened doors for him on the international opera and concert circuit.

Martin Achrainer has appeared at major festivals and concert venues including the Bregenz Festival, the Brooklyn Academy of Music (New York), the Tokyo Bunka Kaikan, the Suntory Hall (Tokyo), the Festival Hall (Osaka), the Neue Oper Wien (Vienna), the Salzburg Festival, the Stadtcasino Basel and the KKL Luzern (Lucerne) under such famous conductors and directors as Dennis Russell Davies, James Gaffigan, Kurt Masur, Marc Minkowski, Reinhard Schwarz, Ralf Weikert, Dietfried Bernet, Brigitte Fassbaender, Harry Kupfer, David Pountney, Olivier Tambosi and Jochen Ulrich.

He can be heard in many of the major roles of his vocal métier, ranging from Don Giovanni, Leporello, Guglielmo and Count Almaviva (Mozart), Marcello (Puccini's *La Bohème*) and roles in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and *La Cenerentola*, to Nekrotzar in Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre*.

Martin Achrainer dedicates his time and passion to extensive concert tours. He feels equally at ease with contemporary music by Ligeti, Henze, Kelterborn, Glass and Schwertsik and jazz-inspired compositions by Bernstein and Weill as with the classical repertoire, for instance Bach's Passions or the great works of classical and romantic sacred music.

He sang the title role in the world premiere of the opera *Kepler*, dedicated to him by the Oscar-nominated composer, Philip Glass. Others who have written for him include Rudolf Kelterborn, Kurt Schwertsik, Alexander Balanescu, Paul Engel, Ernst Ludwig Leitner and Ingo Ingensand.

Numerous international CD and DVD recordings and radio and television broadcasts attest to the diversity of his musical talent.