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RAIMUND NOLTE Bariton

"The singer has an exemplary vocal balance, warmth of flow and dramatic differentiation at his command." Words of praise indeed in the daily paper "Die Welt" for bass-baritone Raimund Nolte after a lieder recital in Berlin.

After first completing studies in mathematics, music pedagogy and viola in Cologne, he was violist with Musica Antiqua Cologne for a number of years. His formative vocal training was with Prof. Josef Metternich and Prof. Irmgard Hartmann, supplemented with courses with Hartmut Höll and Max van Egmond. Now he is working with Gundula Hintz.

Following initial stage appearances with the opera studio of the German Rhine Opera he was heard by Harry Kupfer in 1996 and asked to join the Komische Oper in Berlin, remaining an ensemble member for the following four crucial years. Further engagements led him on to numerous European opera houses (Bielefeld, Potsdam, Brandenburg, Karlsruhe, Darmstadt, Kassel, Salzburg, Rouen, Copenhagen, Catania and Amsterdam). Between 2005 and 2009 he was engaged at the opera house in Halle, in demand not least as a notable Handelian (earning him the accolade from the magazine "Opernwelt" of "Rising Young Singer of the Year") in addition to singing many other major roles belonging to his vocal métier. Thus he sang the title roles of Dallapiccola's "Il Prigioniero", Eugene Onegin, Don Giovanni, the Count in "nozze di Figaro", Faninal in "Rosenkavalier", Wagner's "Das Rheingold" and "Die Meistersinger", the father in "Hänsel und Gretel" and Enrico in "Lucia di Lammermoor". Since 2009 he works as a freelance.

As a concert singer Raimund Nolte has appeared from the outset at the leading European festivals, such as at the Styriarte in Graz under Nikolaus Harnoncourt's baton, at the Dresden Musikfestspiele with René Jacobs, at the Festwoche in Innsbruck with Howard Arman, in the role of Jesus in Bach's Matthew Passion under Trevor Pinnock during the "Bach" year of 2000 (Salzburg Festspiele, tour throughout Europe and Japan). As a guest he has been heard at the Bachwochen in Ansbach, the Flanders and Holland Festivals, in Prague, Paris, London, at the Schlossfestspiele in Ludwigsburg, the Handel Festivals in Karlsruhe, Göttingen and Halle. Conductors of the likes of David Stern, Martin Haselböck, Alan Curtis, Gustav Kuhn, Enoch zu Guttenberg, Hans-Martin Schneidt, Bruno Weil, Gerhard Schmidt-Gaden, Nicholas McGegan, Jan Willem de Vriend and Reinhard Goebel have all been convinced of his versatility.

Among his numerous CD recordings particular mention should be made of his performance as Jesus in the Bach Matthew Passion conducted by Helmut Müller-Brühl for NAXOS, Bernstein's "Candide" with Lorian as narrator (CAPRICCIO), Bach's B Minor Mass under Frieder Bernius's baton (CARUS Label, Editor's Choice, Gramophone magazine), Michael Haydn's "Andromeda e Perseo" under Reinhard Goebel's direction (OEHMS CLASSICS) and Handel's Messiah in the "Herder" version with Wolfgang Katschner (Deutsche HARMONIA MUNDI). A complete recording of Handel's Italian solocantatas for bass is in preparation.