

## MAREK RZEPKA, Bass

Marek Rzepka was born in Mikołów, Poland. Initially he trained as a coal miner, but after winning first prize at the Kolobrzeg Festival in 1989 he began his vocal training in Cracow with Professor Adam Szybowski. He continued his studies with Professor Christian Elssner at the 'Carl Maria von Weber' University of Music in Dresden, graduating with distinction and completing a postgraduate course, and rounded off his training with Hans-Joachim Beyer in Leipzig and with Rudolf Piernay in Mannheim. He has participated in master classes with Brigitte Fassbaender, Teresa Zylis-Gara, Peter Schreier, Thomas Quasthoff and Charles Spencer.



Marek Rzepka's wide repertoire includes Haydn's Creation, Handel's Messiah and Bach's B minor Mass. He has sung the Mozart Requiem in the Cracow Philharmonie, Bach's St. Matthew Passion with the Dresden Kreuzchor and the Philharmonie Dresden, Mauricio Kagel's opera *Aus Deutschland* in Hamburg, Bach's Coffee Cantata with the Akademie für Alte Musik, works by A. Lotti and Zelenka

conducted by Andrew Parrott, Bach cantatas under the baton of Helmuth Rilling, and has appeared in concerts with Steven Stubbs and Eduardo López Banzo.

Marek Rzepka performs regularly with the Balthasar Neumann Ensemble and Thomas Hengelbrock, the Musikpodium Stuttgart with Frieder Bernius and the RIAS chamber choir and Hans-Christoph Rademann. He has appeared in the Milan Auditorium, at the Bologna Festival, the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, the Handel Festival in Halle, the Dresden Music Festival, the Schwetzingen Festival, the Rheingau Music Festival and the Boston Early Music Festival. In addition, he has given recitals at the Gewandhaus in Leipzig, in Vienna, Hamburg, Dresden, Cracow and Freiburg, and has participated in CD productions and radio broadcasts.

In October 2001 he was appointed to teach voice in the early music department of the Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy University of Music in Leipzig.

In 2004 he made his debut at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels in Monteverdi's opera *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* with a subsequent tour of France, Luxembourg and New York. This production was also performed at the 2004 Melbourn International Arts Festival. In September 2006 he recorded Lully's opera *Thésée* under the baton of Steven Stubbs. His recording of Conradi's *Ariadne*, performed at the Boston Early Music Festival and the Tanglewood Festival, was nominated for a Grammy Award. Important engagements in 2006/07 included concerts with Thomas Hengelbrock at the Athens and Wrocław Festivals, a revival of *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* at the Théâtre de la Monnaie and his debut as Masetto in concert performances of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the 2007 Herrenchiemsee Festival.

In addition to concerts with the RIAS chamber choir, in the 2007/08 season Rzepka sang the part of Uberto in Pergolesi's *La serva padrona* with the ensemble Barrocade in Israel and gave a recital at the Jerusalem Academy of Music. He also sang the bass arias in Bach's St. Matthew Passion with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

In the summer of 2009 he made his debuts in Mendelssohn-Bartholdy's *Walpurgisnacht* with the Tonhalle Orchestra in Zurich and in Franz Liszt's *Via Crucis* at the Salzburg Festival.

In October 2009 he was engaged to teach voice at the University of Music in Cracow, Poland.

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In 2012 he sang Caronte in Monteverdi's *Orfeo* in Essen, Würzburg and Paris under the baton of Thomas Hengelbrock and toured Europe with Bach's Christmas Oratorio, also under Hengelbrock. He made his debut at the Teatro Real in Madrid in *Parsifal* in 2013.

Engagements in 2016 included performances of Mendelssohn-Bartholdy's Magnificat (MWV 2) with Hengelbrock in Brussels, Zurich and Frankfurt, and a tour of Spain with works by Claudio Monteverdi under the baton of Pablo Heras-Casado, this programme being recorded subsequently by Harmonia Mundi.

In November 2016 he was appointed professor for singing at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien in Hannover, and now combines teaching with an active international concert career.