

Andrew Watts

Countertenor



“ With countertenor Watts, Neuwirth has the very best performing forces you could dream of.”

Shirley Apthorp, *Financial Times*

(*Berliner Philharmoniker, 2021-World Premiere: Keyframes for a Hippogriff by Olga Neuwirth*)

Few countertenors have pushed the boundaries of repertoire and sound more than Andrew Watts. A dramatic voice unlike any other and extraordinary stage craft and presence make him a unique performer not only of parts traditionally associated with the voice type, but also a pioneer of 20th and 21st century repertoire. He is associated particularly with parts like **Edgar** in Reiman's *Lear*, which he has performed at Staatsoper Hamburg, Opéra national de Paris, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Staatsoper Hannover, Bayerische Staatsoper Munich and Teatro Real Madrid.

As well as singing core roles of the countertenor repertoire such as **Ottone Agrippina** (Teatro Nacional de São Carlos, Lisbon), **Athamas Semele** (Oper Graz) and **Arsamene Xerxes** (English National Opera), **Oberon A Midsummer's Night Dream** and **Prince Go-Go** (Komische Oper Berlin, ENO, Oper Graz) and such less frequently done by countertenors like **Baba the Turk** *The Rake's Progress* (Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Dutch National Opera, Stanislavsky Theatre, Moscow) and **Orlofsky** *Die Fledermaus* (Oper Graz), he has performed over 60 world premieres.

Creating roles specifically written for him, Andrew has also performed at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Glyndebourne Festival, La Scala, La Fenice, Staatsoper Berlin,

Opera de Lyon, with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and at the Salzburg, Bregenz, Lucerne, Aldeburgh and Edinburgh International Festivals as well as the Ruhrtriennale and the BBC Proms, and premiered works by Harrison Birtwistle (*The Minotaur; Gawain; The Last Supper*), Olga Neuwirth (*Bählamms Fest; Lost Highway; The Outcast; Keyframes for a Hippogriff*), Unsuk Chin (*Alice in Wonderland*), Nuñez (*Märchen*), Guarnieri (*Medea*), Raymond Yiu (*The Original Chinese Conjuror*), Michael Finnissy (*Thérèse Raquin*), Judith Weir (*Miss Fortune*), Torsten Rasch (*The Duchess of Malfi*), Tansy Davies (*Between Worlds*) and Elena Langer (*Figaro Gets A Divorce*).

Recent and upcoming highlights include debuts with the New York Philharmonic (*Keyframes for a Hippogriff*) and with the Wiener Staatsoper as **Prince Go-Go** in a new production of *Le grand macabre*, returns to Festival Présences and to the Bayerische Staatsoper as **Orlofsky** in Barrie Kosky's *Die Fledermaus*, and the world premiere of Olga Neuwirth's *Monster's Paradise* (Staatsoper Hamburg and Opernhaus Zürich)

Valid for use until 1 Feb 2026
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