

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, 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*).

In 22/23 Andrew's performances included *The Outcast* at the Philharmonie de Paris with Ensemble Intercontemporain, *Keyframes for a Hippogriff* with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra and in Lyon, *Lear* at Bayerische Staatsoper, *Peter Pan* in Bolzano and Schnittke's *Faust Cantata* with the Hamburg Symphony Orchestra.

In 23/24, he makes debuts with Staatstheater Hannover (*Lear*), the New York Philharmonic (*Keyframes of a Hippogriff*) and at Wiener Staatsoper as **Prince Go-Go**, which he also sings this season at the George Enescu Festival and with Orchestre national de France.

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