

# Ilker Arcayürek

Tenor



“He is a sought-after man. Anyone who listens to his current CD immediately understands why...a bright, light timbre that characterizes the lyrical tenor [...] He reaches any height effortlessly.”

Audible Magazine

Born in Istanbul and raised in Vienna, tenor **Ilker Arcayürek** has emerged as one of the most exciting and versatile vocal artists in recent years – hailed by the press for his “golden tenor” (Opera Now Magazine) and quickly establishing himself “in a class of his own” (The Guardian). He is a winner of the International Art Song Competition of Germany’s Hugo Wolf Academy, a finalist of the 2015 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World and was a BBC Radio 3 New Generation Artist. He was also selected to perform at Ronaldo Vilazon’s “Stars of Tomorrow” for ARTE. In 2017 Champs Hill Records released his first solo album “Der Einsame”, featuring Schubert songs accompanied by Simon Lepper, to great critical acclaim. His latest recording with Simon titled “Path of Life” for Prospero Classical was nominated for 2 OPUS KLASSIK Awards.

Arcayürek’s versatility results in him having a busy and varied career on the opera stage, symphonically and on the recital platform.

He has worked with orchestras such as Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Tonkünstler-Orchester, Tokyo Philharmonic, RSO Vienna, Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin, Orchestre National de Belgique, Orchestre National de Lyon, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Antwerp Symphony, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Royal Northern Sinfonia under conductors such as Mariss Jansons, Ivor Bolton, Laurence Equilbey, Marin Alsop, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Philippe Herreweghe, Riccardo Minasi, Mikhail Pletnev, Lars Vogt, Simon Halsey and Adam Fischer.

Recent highlights have included Liszt *Eine Faust-Sinfonie* with Sinfonieorchester Basel, A fourteen date European tour of Beethoven’s *Missa Solemnis* with the Orchestre des Champs Elysees and Collegium Vocale Gent, a return to Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks, Haydn’s *Die Schöpfung* with WDR Sinfonieorchester at Kölner Philharmonie, Verdi Requiem with Antwerp Symphony and with Opera National de Montpellier, tenor arias in *St Matthew Passion* with Residentie Orkest in the Hague, Mozart’s *Requiem* with London Philharmonic Orchestra and *Mass in C* with Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin.

On the opera stage, recent successes include his Canadian Opera Company debut as **Tamino** *Die Zauberflöte*, **Ferrando** *Così fan tutte* with Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, for Opera Vlaanderen performing the roles of **Ariel**, **Pater Ecstasticus** in Schumann’s *Szenen aus Goethes Faust* and the role of **Alfred** in *Die Fledermaus* at Musikverein Graz. He returned to the Edinburgh International Festival in summer 2023 for a semi-staged version of *Die Zauberflöte* conducted by Maxim Emelyanychev.

Ilker has been a member of the studio of Zürich Opera (2009-2013) a member of the ensemble of the Stadttheater Klagenfurt (2013-2015) and Staatstheater Nürnberg (2015-18) singing various roles such as **Tamino** *Die Zauberflöte*, the **title role** *Idomeneo*, **Don Ottavio** *Don Giovanni*, **Ferrando** *Così fan tutte* and **Rodolfo** *La Bohème*. As a guest artist he has performed at Teatro Real Madrid in Kasper Holten’s production of Wagner’s *Das Liebesverbot*, Munich Opera Festival of the Bayerische

Staatsoper in the world premiere of Nikolaus Brass’ *Die Vorübergehenden*, Salzburg Festival in Donizetti’s *Lucrezia Borgia*, Volksoper Wien in Lortzing’s *Zar and Zimmerman* and for Opera Graz the role of **Lyonel** in Flotow’s *Martha* and as the **title role** in Weber’s *Oberon*. In summer 2019 Ilker made his US operatic debut in the role of **Nadir** in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* at Santa Fe Opera.

Often described as having the gift of storytelling, Ilker is a passionate exponent of Lied and this continues to form an important output of his work. He performs with pianists such as Simon Lepper, Hartmut Höll, Ammiel Bushakevitz, Daniel Heide and Wolfram Rieger and has presented programmes at Edinburgh International Festival, Wigmore Hall, Wiener Konzerthaus, Schubertiade Schwarzenberg and Hohenems, Oper Frankfurt, Schubertiade Vilabertran, de Singel Antwerp, Life Victoria Barcelona, at the Innsbruck Festwochen and Hugo Wolf Academy Stuttgart. He made his highly anticipated United States recital debut in February 2019 at the Park Avenue Armory in New York and with San Francisco Performances, accompanied by pianist Simon Lepper and returns to both venues this season.

Other highlights of this current season include recitals at Wigmore Hall, Het Concertgebouw Amsterdam (both with Ammiel Bushakevitz), Brahms Liebesliederwalzer for Schubertiade and in the UK for BBC Radio 3 with Malcolm Martineu. He will travel to Tokyo to sing **Tamino** *Die Zauberflöte* at the Bunkamura Centre with Bach Collegium Japan under Masato Suzuki. He returns for another large European tour with the Orchestre des Champs Elysees performing Mozart Requiem as well as Missa Solemnis with the Münchener Philharmoniker, Mendelssohn’s Lobgesang with Symphonischer Chor Hamburg and Dove’s In Damascus with the Quiroga Quartet as part of the String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam.

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