
Ilker Arcayürek

Selected Reviews

Recital with Malcolm Martineau Edinburgh International Festival (August 2023)

Arcayürek was brought up in Vienna and has all the signs of a well-trained Lieder singer, the open stance, the discreet use of hand gestures to tell a story – and a wonderful voice. He sings quietly through the Beethoven, only opening up fully at the end, but it's obvious that he is comfortable throughout the range, with some delightful baritone touches at the lower end of his voice. – Kate Calder, *Edinburgh Music Review*

By the final passage of Schubert's *Nachtstück* his warm resonance has found its perfect, trembling clarity with each note resting quietly on his tongue. Soft. Restful. Done. – Malcolm McGonigle, *Art Mag*

Recital with Simon Lepper Oper Frankfurt (July 2023)

Wie nur sehr wenige Sänger schafft er es, in die feinen, zarten, kaum noch hörbaren Tönen dennoch viel Ausdruck hineinzulegen. Sehr schön gestaltete er Robert Schumanns sehnsuchtsvolles „Du bist wie eine Blume“ nach Heinrich Heine

Like very few singers, he manages to put a lot of expression into the fine, delicate, barely audible tones. He beautifully designed Robert Schumann's longing "You are like a flower" after Heinrich Heine. – *Kulturfreak.DE*

BEETHOVEN Missa Solemnis Collegium Vocale Gent, Orchestre des Champs Elysees, European Tour (December 2022)

Ein Highlight war Ilker Arcayürek, der in Wien aufgewachsen, hier aber bisher selten zu hören war. Mit seinem so geschmeidigen und energischen Tenor lieferte er beste Argumente für zukünftige Rollen in seiner Heimatstadt.

A highlight was Ilker Arcayürek, who grew up in Vienna but has rarely been heard here. With his tenor so supple and energetic, he provides the best arguments for future roles in his hometown. – *Die Presse*

Ilker Arcayürek überzeugte mit seinem gut geführten Tenor.

Ilker Arcayürek convinced with his well carried tenor.

– Susanne Zobl, *Kurier*

Makellos, von manchmal objektiver Schönheit auch der Sound der Solisten Eleanor Lyons und Ilker Arcayürek.

Flawless, from sometimes objective beauty, the sound from soloists Eleanor Lyons and Ilker Arcayürek.

– Michael-Georg Müller, *WR Kultur*

Dans une optique « musique ancienne », le ténor Ilker Arcayürek tient ses promesses : aigus impeccablement placés et lignes galbées

In the context of 'early music', tenor Ilker Arcayürek keeps his promises : his high notes are impeccably placed and his line smoothly undulating

– Dominique Joucken, *Forum Opera*

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Pour beaucoup, le ténor turc Ilker Arcayürek sera une révélation, autant pour la délicatesse de son chant que par le soleil de son timbre. Un ténor aux moyens mozartiens qui devrait faire parler de lui dans les années à venir.

For many, the turkish tenor Ilker Arcayürek will be a revelation, as much for his delicate singing as for the ray of sunshine in his timbre. A tenor with Mozartian means who should have us talking about him for years to come.

– Pierre Degot, *Resmusica*

SCHUMANN Szenen aus Goethes Faust Opera Ballet Vlaanderen (July 2022)

On apprécie [...] et plus encore le timbre clair et si nuancé du ténor austro-turc Ilker Arcayürek (Ariel).

One appreciates even more the clear and ever so nuanced timbre of the austro-turkish tenor Ilker Arcayürek (Ariel).

- Emmanuel Andrieu, *Opera Online*

Tenor Ilker Arcayürek sorgt als Ariel inmitten der überwältigenden Sonnenaufgangsmusik für selige Momente des Schwebens.

Tenor Ilker Arcayürek as Ariel brings blissful moments of stillness amid the overwhelming sunrise music.

- Jan Brachmann, *Frankfurter Allgemeine*

l'Ariel stylé du ténor turc Ilker Arcayürek

Turkish tenor Ilker Arcayürek's stylish Ariel

– Alfred Canon, *Avant Scène Opera*

MOZART The Magic Flute (Tamino) Canadian Opera Company (May 2022)

Of the "straight" characters, perhaps the most effective was Ilker Arcayürek's Tamino. He is a very stylish singer. His 'Dies Bildnis' was lovely and throughout he maintained a pleasing blend of beautiful tone and expressiveness coupled with convincing acting.

- John Gilks, *Bachtrack*

As the storybook prince-esque lead, Arcayürek is a solid Tamino. His voice is steady, strong, and blends wonderfully with any and all of the other performers.

- Isabella Perrone, *Broadway World*

Turkish-born, Austria-based tenor, Ilker Arcayürek, stars as Tamino and bass-baritone Gordon Bintner as Papageno. These two gentlemen commanded a decadent stage presence. Arcayürek provided the heartbeat to the operatic piece.

- Thirty Four Flavours blog

Anchored by a masterful performance by Ilker Arcayürek, who is pitch perfect as Tamino [...] Arcayürek's voice is very pleasant and strong. He has a very commanding stage presence, and with the beautiful costumes designed by Myung Hee Cho, he exudes a stately aura.

- Curtis Sindrey, *Aesthetic Magazine*

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SCHUBERT Die Schöne Müllerin

James Baillieu, LIFE Victoria Festival Barcelona (Nov 2021)

La seva veu conté una màgica sensualitat, un refinament en l'expressió que fa discórrer la paraula en un just i absolut significat conceptual.

[Ilker Arcayürek's] ... voice contains a magical sensuality, a refinement in the expression that makes the word run through in a just and absolute conceptual meaning.

La veu d'Arcayürek fluïa amb encant en lieder com "Agraïment al rierol", "Salutació matinal" o "Les flors del moliner", secundat per un pianisme ofert per Baillieu com si es tractés d'un rierol en què l'aigua avança amb una naturalitat màgica. El seu cant brillant, eloqüent del lied "Mein!" mostrava una veu que es projectava amb una nítida diafanitat i eloqüència.

Arcayürek's voice flowed charmingly in lieder as "Gratitude to the Stream", "Morning Greeting" or "The Miller's Flowers", supported by a pianism offered by Baillieu as if it were a stream in which the water advances with a magical naturalness. His brilliant, eloquent chant of the lied "Mein!" showed a voice that was projected with sharp diaphany and eloquence.

- Lluís Trullén, *Revista Musical Catalana*

LISZT A Faust Overture

Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra (October 2021)

...when Ilker Arcayürek sings "Das Ewig-Feminine/Zog uns hinan" with a slender tenor and friendly ecstasy, the amazement turns into cheerfulness.

- Michael Bastian White, *Abendzeitung München*

MOZART Requiem

Antwerp Symphony Orchestra, Herreweghe (video stream, April 2021)

Tenor Ilker Arcayürek [...] seemed to bring forward some of the melancholy and vulnerability characterising his wonderful Schubert Lieder renditions.

- Edward Sava-Segal, *Bachtrack*

BRITTEN Serenade for tenor, horn and strings

Amsterdam Sinfonietta and Felix Klieser (horn), Muziekgebouw (video stream, March 2021)

The performance was captivating and convincing, Arcayürek sensitive and lyrical in his storytelling [...] blending sophisticatedly with the strings and showing emotional depth. The highlights [...] were in the nuances – the ebbing phrases, the subtle changes in mood, Arcayürek moving from the whimsical to the melancholy [...] showing incredible control over variations in timbre.

- Mark Thomas, *Bachtrack*

CD: SCHUBERT The Path of Life

With Simon Lepper (piano), Prospero Classical (released April 2021)

Nominated for OPUS KLASSIK 2021 in two categories - "Solistic vocals of the year - song" & "Young artist of the year"

Outstanding

- Kultur & Leben

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With Arcayürek's light, bright tenor [...] the "galloping" songs — *Willkommen und Abschied; Auf der Bruck* — are delivered with athletic aplomb, the singer's diction immaculate.

- Hugh Canning, Album of the week, *The Sunday Times*

... offers an excellent showcase for the tenor's gifts. [...] His tone is bright, open and honest... [Ilker Arcayürek] is particularly suited to the more plangent numbers, which show off his beautiful piano timbre and long legato lines.

- Hugo Shirley, *Gramophone*

...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 [...] Arcayürek has the gift of storytelling.

- Translated from Media House Aachen, *Audible Magazine*

Arcayürek [...] masters the diction perfectly, but also the interpretation with a rediscovery of every moment for the listener. [...] A great success in short.

- Elodie Martinez, *OperaOnline*

With his light, dynamically very flexible, clearly articulating and appropriately text-comprehensible tenor voice, Arcayürek succeeds in very characteristic interpretations. The balanced voice with its flawless timbre and its lyrical sensualism allow him to sing Schubert without a false pathos and without false inwardness but always with dramatic tension. Arcayürek sings with feeling and just as much taste, giving his voice a vulnerability that is touching.

- Remy Franck, *Pizzicato*

CD: Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen with Fiona Pollak (piano), Avi Music (released May 2020)

Tenor Ilker Arcayürek's voice possesses many characteristics from which every singer would benefit: a beautiful, smart tone combined with a strong technique, a richness of sound from the head voice to the low register, and above all a fine articulation and the resulting expressiveness in dealing with the text. He therefore belongs to a type of singer who can fill the text with life, who is not only a singer but also a narrator. Each song on this CD is performed in a very characteristic way because Arcayürek is deeply involved and his singing correspondingly intense.

- Remy Franck, *pizzicato*

It makes for a delightful album, taking core Austro-Hungarian repertoire as its basis but pushing out, too, to further corners of the former empire [...] We start and end with Mahler, and the opening performance of the songs that give the album its title show off the same easy, instinctive manner that characterised his Schubert. [...] his singing is always appealing, his interpretations admirably honest. And a gentle, heartfelt performance of *'Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen'* provides a touching conclusion to a lovely album.

- Hugo Shirley, *Gramophone*

LISZT A Faust Symphony Belgian National Orchestra, Hugh Wolff, Klara Festival, Brussels (March 2019)

... the solo tenor, lyrical and virile Ilker Arcayürek...

- Patrice Lieberman, *Crescendo magazine*

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SCHUBERT Song Recital

Park Armory, New York with Simon Lepper (piano), (February 2019)

Through this journey through the songs of Schubert, Ilker Arcayürek brought an abundance of emotion, making for a wonderful showcase of his vocal artistry. - Logan Martell, *Opera Wire*

Tenor Ilker Arcayürek possesses the elements necessary to make Schubert's worlds come to life. His modesty and sincerity allow the music to speak for itself [...] His handsome voice, flawlessly produced [...] Mr Arcayürek is a superlative artist [...] - Raymond Beegle, *Classical Voice*

SCHUBERT/SCHUMANN Recital

Heidelberger Frühling Festival with Hartmut Höll (piano), (April 2018)

His tenor captivated Schubert with a truly enchanting sound timbre, and at the same time every word was to be understood. Full of energy, he found himself [...] from the first minute, in an inwardly excited high spirits that took every word at once. - Simon Scherer, *Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung*

Tenor Ilker Arcayürek who seems to have captured the sun in his throat ... - Emmanuelle Giuliani, *La Croix*

CD: SCHUBERT Der Einsame

with Simon Lepper (piano), Champs Hill Records (released September 2017)

Presto Classical: Recordings of the Year Finalist 2017

Gramophone Magazine Awards Issue 2017: Editor's Choice

ICMA (International Classical Music Awards): Best vocal recordings nominee

It's been a while since we've had a debut disc as engaging as this [...] Arcayürek has the kind of airy, easily ringing tenor that puts across words beautifully, with power in reserve yet a hint of vulnerability too [...] With Lepper offering consistently vivid support, Arcayürek spins long lines that are achingly sweet. - Erica Jeal, *The Guardian*

This BBC New Generation Artist sings with such freshness and sincerity that even his melancholy is sweetly compelling [...] There is immense potential from this tenor, who has clearly worked hard to get inside these songs, yet doesn't overburden the poetry with too many artful effects. Schubert, who saw his songs performed casually in living rooms among friends, would love this wonderfully intimate recording. - Neil Fisher, *The Times*

The ever-increasing tenor population in the Schubert song discography reaches a peak of sorts with Ilker Arcayürek's intelligently conceived recital, executed with vocal freshness and an open-hearted quality that recalls the young Nicolai Gedda and Christoph Prégardien. The Italianate richness of his timbre makes him a particularly mainstream voice in this repertoire, though he has all of the needed interpretative individuality [...]. - David Patrick Stearns, *Gramophone*