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WEINHAPPEL



## BIOGRAPHY

The musical talent of the baritone born in Lower Austria was discovered very early. In 2017, he was the first Austrian to win the coveted “**Thalia Award**” for “Best Opera Singer of the Year” for his artistic performance as **Hamlet**.

In addition, the jury of the OPERA 2017 festival conferred the “**Libuska Award** for most exceptional role interpretation” on Weinhappel. After the “Thalia”, the “Libuska” is the second most significant Czech opera prize.

Weinhappel feels at home in the arenas of opera and operetta as well as song and classical musical.

As an alto soloist with the **Vienna Boys’ Choir**, he performed in the US, South America, Canada, England and Sweden. He graduated from the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna with a Master of Arts with Distinction. Master classes with Barbara Bonney, Walter Berry, Robert Holl, Gundula Janowitz, Eva Blahova and Heidrun Franz-Vetter followed. Weinhappel then went on to win several international competitions.

Michael Haneke first discovered Weinhappel’s talent of “**making roles human**”. In Haneke’s film “The Piano Teacher”, which won three Golden Palm Trees at Cannes Film Festival in 2001, Weinhappel performed selections from Schubert’s Winterreise.

He worked with directors such as Christoph Schlingensiefel, Otto Schenk, Martin Otava and Josef E. Köpplinger, and developed a wide-ranging repertoire of opera, operetta, musical and song literature that also includes contemporary works [**Escamillo, Tarquinius, Don Giovanni, Papageno, Almadiva, Figaro** (Rossini), **Hamlet, Posa, Wolfram; Calicot, Danilo, Homonay** and many more].

To date, Weinhappel has performed at the Wiener Musikverein, Konzerthaus in Vienna, Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles), Esplanade Concert Hall (Singapore), Symphony Center (Chicago), National Arts Centre (Ottawa), Carinthian Summer in Moscow (Kremlin) and St. Petersburg as well as in Spain, France, Japan, Australia, Venezuela, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, Cyprus, Slovakia and Turkey.

After his debut at the 2016 **Bregenz Festival**, he returned to Baden City Theatre (Madame Pompadour), Ostrava National Theatre and to Prague in 2017. In the winter of 2017/18, he performed his much acclaimed Winterreise in Vienna.

With his favourite role - **Hamlet** - he debuted in **Prague** [2017 - where he also sang **Tarquinius** in 2018 (“The Rape of Lucretia” - Britten)] as well as at **Pilsen National Theatre** (2018).

After his success with Mahler’s **Pater Ecstasticus in Sofia** and with **Rossini’s Figaro** in August 2018 (at Kirchstetten Castle), he took up new challenges at Bühne Baden (**Homonay & Gaylord Ravenal** / winter 2019). Furthermore, he has been invited by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs to perform solo concerts at Budapest Castle and in the Great Hall of the Austrian Cultural Forum in Bratislava in April 2019.

## ENGAGEMENTS (SELECTION)

- **Austria:** St. Margarethen and Bregenz Opera Festivals, Laxenburg Castle Festival, Lockenhaus, Open Air in Gars am Kamp, Baden City Theatre, Klagenfurt, Neue Oper Wien, Vienna State Opera, Musikverein Vienna;
- **Germany:** Bayerische Staatsoper, Thalia Theater Hamburg, Renaissance Theater Berlin, Festival Luisenburg;
- **Switzerland:** Luzern KKL, Theater St. Gallen, Stadttheater Bern;
- **Spain:** Teatro Mira Madrid, Zaragoza, Toledo, Alicante;
- **France:** Opéra Massy (Paris), Théâtre Montansier de Versailles
- **The Czech Republic:** Antonín Dvořák Theatre (Ostrava), Tyl Theatre (Pilsen), Estates Theatre (Prague).

## REPERTOIRE (SELECTION)

Bizet: Carmen – ESCAMILLO ■ Britten: The Rape of Lucretia – TARQUINIUS ■ Kern: Show Boat – GAYLORD RAVENAL ■ Lehár: Die lustige Witwe – DANILO ■ Leigh: Der Mann von la Mancha – PEDRO ■ Mozart: Don Giovanni – DON GIOVANNI, Così fan tutte – GUGLIELMO, Die Zauberflöte – PAPAGENO, Die Hochzeit des Figaro – CONTE ALMAVIVA ■ Rossini: Der Barbier von Sevilla – FIGARO ■ Nicolai: Die lustigen Weiber von Windsor – HERR FLUTH ■ Puccini: La Bohème – MARCELLO ■ Purcell: Dido und Aeneas – AENEAS ■ Strauss Sohn: Der Zigeunerbaron – HOMONAY, Die Fledermaus – DR.FALKE ■ Thomas: Hamlet – HAMLET ■ Verdi: Rigoletto – CONTE CEPRANO, MARULLO; Don Carlos – POSA ■ Wagner: Tannhäuser – WOLFRAM ■ Zykan: Staatsoperette – KOLOMAN WALLISCH / POLIZEICHEF

Weinhappel performed selections from Schubert's "Winterreise" in Michael Haneke's film "The Piano Teacher", which was awarded three Golden Palm Trees at Cannes Film Festival in 2001. He worked with directors such as Otto Schenk, Christoph Schlingensiefel and Josef E. Köpplinger.

The baritone's last success was the role of Gaylord Ravenal in Jerome Kern's Show Boat in his first full-length musical in February 2019.

Weinhappel is particularly interested in song. His wide repertoire comprises the great Schubert cycles as well as works by contemporary song composers. Accompanied on the piano by greats such as Prof. Robert Lehrbaumer (Altenburger Musik Akademie), Prof. David Lutz and Prof. Manfred Schiebel, Weinhappel has captivated audiences with many recitals. Concert performances include Konzerthaus in Vienna, Carinthian Summer in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Japan, Australia, Venezuela, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland and Turkey as well as Walt Disney Hall, LA (USA). He performed recitals (with Roger Vignoles) in 2015 in London, 2017 in Chicago (USA) and 2018 in Toronto (Canada).

### CONTACT

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