

Holger Falk, baritone

"Falk sings with a tremendous tonal range that refuses to allow the audience to remain oblivious to the music involved: it is as though the lyrics are biting deeper into the ear with each syllable, each note. (...) Falk's capacity for creativity is sensational", as the ZEIT and Washington Post reported: "Falk is able to characterize every word so vividly that, if he were singing in Vedic Sanskrit, you'd get the message". Flexibility, vibrancy and immediacy of expression make Holger Falk an internationally sought-after interpreter. With his multiple opera appearances as well as being an avid concert and lieder singer, he is a guest at major houses throughout Europe and the USA, working with renowned conductors and directors.

Holger Falk has a great passion for contemporary music theatre, and several new scores were composed especially for him: he sang the world premières of *The Golden Dragon* by Peter Eötvös at the Oper Frankfurt and at the Bregenz Festival along with *Ein Brief* by Manfred Trojahn at the Oper Bonn and *Septembersonate* by Manfred Trojahn at the Deutsche Oper am Rhein Düsseldorf. He has been nominated three times as *singer of the year* by Opernwelt magazine for his outstanding interpretations of Cassandra in Iannis Xenaki's *Oresteia* (2017), Johannes in Georg Friedrich Haas' *Morgen und Abend* (2017) and of Lord Byron in Michael Wertmüller's world première *DIODATI. UNENDLICH* (2019). He also has performed works by composers including Wolfgang Rihm, Kaija Saariaho, Beat Furrer, Georges Aperghis, Bernhard Lang, Miroslav Srnka, Vladimir Tarnopolski, Steffen Schleiermacher, Chaya Czernowin and Gordon Kampe and has appeared at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, the Staatsoper Hamburg, the Oper Köln, the Theater an der Wien, the Theater Basel, the Théâtre de la Monnaie Brussels, the Teatro Real Madrid, the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées Paris and the National Opera Warsaw.

Holger Falk regularly works with contemporary ensembles such as the Klangforum Wien, Ensemble Modern, Ensemble Resonanz, Musikfabrik NRW, Basel Sinfonietta as well as with baroque ensembles including the Ensemble Elyma Genève (Monteverdi's *Orfeo*), Elbipolis Hamburg (Graupner's *Dido*), the Concerto Köln (Hasse's *Leucippo*.) and the Kammerakademie Potsdam (Mendelssohn's *Elias*). He presented the outstanding production AMOPERA together with Sarah Maria Sun, the Klangforum Wien and the Need Company at the Festspielhaus Erl, the Wiener Konzerthaus, the Hong Kong Arts Festival, in South Korea, at the Transart Festival Bolzano and at the concert hall NOSPR in Katowice (Poland).

In the season 2026/27, Holger Falk will perform Hans Zender's *Winterreise* with the Klangforum Wien at the Weit! Festival Weingarten and Friedrich Cerha's *Keintate I, II* with the attensam quartett at Wien Modern. Furthermore, he will sing recitals at the International Hugo-Wolf-Academy Stuttgart with Steffen Schleiermacher, the Liedfestival Kassel with Marlene Heiß and present the project *re-claiming Kunstlied*.

Holger Falk's range of CD productions, including a four-part series of songs by Hanns Eislers (MDG), the complete recordings of the *Mélodies et Chansons* by Erik Satie and all 115 mélodies by Francis Poulenc (MDG) and *Il Gondoliere Veneziano – a musical voyage through Venice* (Prospero), received prestigious awards: German Record Critics' Award 2017, *CD of the Month* (Opernwelt), Gramophone Editor's Choice Award, ECHO Klassik Award 2016 and Opus Klassik 2019 as *Singer of the Year* and *best solo-recording vocal: Lied 2019*. As Pizzicato writes of Holger Falk's song interpretations: *"[Holger Falk] does not attempt to artificially refine the songs, but instead sings them as genuinely as possible with the particular timbre of the genre, spirit and power matched with sparkling rhetoric, sometimes calmly contemplative, sometimes spirited and passionate or even teasing".* In 2022, the CD *Keintate I, II* (Friedrich Cerha) has been released (Kairos) together with the attensam quartett. In 2025, he finalized the release of a 8 CDs-series presenting the Lied oeuvre of the „groupe des six“-composers Poulenc, Honegger, Milhaud, Tailleferre, Auric and Durey. Also in 2025, Chaya Czernowin's *Atara* has been released on CD (Kairos).

Holger Falk began singing as a boy with the famous Regensburg Cathedral Boys' Choir followed by vocal studies at the Würzburg Conservatory, in Milan with Sigune von Osten, Franco Corelli and with Neil Semer, among others. Holger Falk is professor of Lied interpretation and performances practice for contemporary music at the renowned University of Music and Performing Arts Graz.

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