

## Thomas Weinhappel, Baritone

The musical talent of the lyric baritone, who was born in Lower Austria, was discovered rather early. At present he is primarily engaged in the genres opera, operetta and song, although he is fascinated by each and every kind of music and always openminded towards new ideas. When he was eight years old, he had his first singing lessons with the Wiener Sängerknaben (Vienna Boys' Choir) and went on tour as their alto soloist in the USA, South America, Canada, Germany, England and Sweden. Weinhappel attended the private university of music and performing arts in Vienna (MUK) as well as the university of music and performing arts Vienna (MDW). In 2007 he graduated with honors and obtained the degree Master of Arts. Among his master's classes professors and singing lessons instructors were personalities such as Eva Blahova, Barbara Bonney, Walter Berry or Gundula Janowitz. Thomas Weinhappel gained the Yehudi Menuhin music scholarship and won several international singing contests.

He also worked under directors such as Otto Schenk, Christoph Schlingensiefel and Josef E. Köpplinger. At present the baritone is studying the Figaro (from Rossini's «The Barber of Seville»). The singer's special interest is the song as a form of music. His wide repertoire includes Schubert's song cycles as well as works of contemporary composers. He held concerts in the Vienna concert hall (Wiener Konzerthaus), at the Carinthian Summer music festival in Moscow and Saint Petersburg, Japan, Australia, Venezuela, Germany, Hungary, Switzerland, Turkey and in the Walt Disney Concert Hall in L.A. (USA). The last song recitals he gave took place in London in 2015, where he was accompanied by Roger Vignoles.

Thomas works with the Schoenbrunn Palace Orchestra Vienna since 2003.