

## THOMAS QUASTHOFF

### Bassbariton

German bass-baritone Thomas Quasthoff is recognized as one of the most remarkable singers of his generation. A frequent guest of both the Berlin and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestras he appears regularly with the world's leading orchestras under such renowned conductors as Claudio Abbado, Daniel Barenboim, Bernard Haitink, Mariss Jansons, Kurt Masur, Seiji Ozawa, Sir Simon Rattle, Helmuth Rilling, Christian Thielemann and Franz Welser-Möst.

Thomas Quasthoff's début in 1995 at the Oregon Bach Festival laid the basis for his highly successful career in the USA. Having since returned numerous times for appearances with the most important orchestras and festivals, he regularly appears at New York's Carnegie Hall since his outstanding recital début there in January 1999 (WINTERREISE/Schubert).

In March 2003 Thomas Quasthoff gave his highly acclaimed opera début in the role of *Don Fernando*/FIDELIO with the Berlin Philharmonic under Sir Simon Rattle at the Salzburg Easter Festival. His remarkable début at the Vienna Staatsoper in the role of *Amfortas*/PARSIFAL under Donald Runnicles followed in spring 2004. In January 2005 he returned to Vienna in the same role to perform under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle.

Thomas Quasthoff has been «Artist in Residence» at Vienna's Musikverein, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Carnegie Hall, and Lucerne Festival as well as in Baden-Baden, Hamburg and at the London Barbican Centre. Engagements of the 2010/2011 season include concerts with Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Daniel Harding performing Mendelssohn's ELIAS, a tour with his his new soul/blues/jazz program "Tell It Like It Is", a tour with the Camerata Salzburg and with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under Zubin Mehta, as well as concerts with Freiburg Baroque Orchestra at the Mozartwoche Salzburg. In recital Thomas Quasthoff appears in Berlin with Daniel Barenboim, in Vienna and London with Andrés Schiff, at the Salzburg Festival with Pierre-Laurent Aimard as well as in Lisbon, Düsseldorf, Prague and Garmisch-Partenkirchen. He will also perform Brahms' LIEBESLIEDERWALZER together with Genia Kühmeier, Bernarda Fink and Michael Schade in the USA, Berlin, Vienna, Basel, and London and at the Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg.

As of 1999 Thomas Quasthoff has an exclusive recording contract with the Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft (DGG). Three of his CDs have received coveted „Grammy” awards: Mahler's LIEDER AUS DES KNABEN WUNDERHORN (together with Anne Sofie von Otter under Claudio Abbado), orchestrated Schubert Lieder (with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, also under Claudio Abbado), and, in spring 2006 for his Bach CANTATAS together with the Berlin Baroque Soloists. His most recent recording is are Italian Arias by Joseph Haydn together with the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra. The release for "Tell it like it is" is planned for fall 2010.

Thomas Quasthoff began his vocal studies with Professor Charlotte Lehmann and Professor Huber-Contwig (musicology) in Hannover, Germany. His national and international music awards include among others the First Prize in the 1988 ARD International Music Competition Munich. Further prizes include the Shostakovich in 1996 (Moscow) and the Hamada Trust/Scotsman Festival Prize (Edinburgh International Festival, 1996). The artist

held a professorship at the vocal department of the Music Academy in Detmold, Germany since 1996, where he maintained a vigorous teaching schedule, before accepting a new position at the Hanns Eisler Music University in Berlin in the fall of 2004.

For many years, Thomas Quasthoff has dedicated himself to Lied, and it is his deepest desire to preserve this art form. Therefore he has founded a Lied-Competition which started in Berlin in 2009 and takes place every second year.

Thomas Quasthoff received from the President of the German Republic the Order of Merit in 2005. One year later, he was awarded the European Culture Price for Music at the Dresden Frauenkirche. In 2009, Thomas Quasthoff received the Gold Medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society in London as well as the Herbert von Karajan Music award by the Baden-Baden Festspielhaus. Further, he was appointed Österreichischer Kammersänger by the Austrian government.

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