

GERRIT PRIESSNITZ - Conductor

Gerrit Prießnitz was born in Bonn. He is currently holding a professorship as musical head of the opera department of the Graz Arts University (KUG) and is a sought-after international free-lance conductor, most recent débuts including the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra (SPO), Filharmonie Brno, Symphonieorchester Vorarlberg and Belgrade Philharmonic.

At the Vienna State Opera he directed the premiere of Hans Werner Henze's "Pollicino", which was followed by invitations to Richard Strauss' "Josephslegende", "The Nutcracker" and in 2023 Pärt's "Tabula Rasa". In 2014 he conducted a concert performance of "Fidelio" at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, followed by his début at the Hamburg State Opera with the premiere of "La Belle Hélène" and an immediate invitation as a substitute for "Carmen". Gerrit Prießnitz collaborated with the most important singers of our time such as Piotr Beczala, Linda Watson, Klaus Florian Vogt, Vesselina Kasarova, Jennifer Larmore and Kurt Rydl. In 2018/19, he served as "Principal Guest Conductor" of the Chemnitz Theatre.

His extensive guest appearances have taken him to the Cologne Opera, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, the MDR Symphony Orchestra, Bamberg Symphony, Aalto Musiktheater Essen, Sofia Philharmonic, the Golden Hall of the Vienna Musikverein, Vienna Konzerthaus, Brucknerhaus Linz (Bruckner Orchestra), Bunka Kaikan Tokyo, Aichi Arts Center Nagoya, Ulsan Philharmonic, Munich Radio Orchestra, Beethovenfest Bonn, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, Sofia Philharmonic, Wuppertal Symphony, Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra, Staatskapelle Halle, Württemberg Philharmonic, Schlossfestspiele Schwerin, Robert Schumann Philharmonic Chemnitz, Jena Philharmonic, the Lucerne Theater, Orquesta de Córdoba, the Slovenian National Theater Maribor, Mörbisch Lake Festival and the Lower Austrian Tonkünstlerorchester. His production of Hindemith's late opera "Die Harmonie der Welt" at the Landestheater Linz was described in the annual survey of the German magazine "Opernwelt" as "Rediscovery of the Year".

From 2006 to 2013 and from 2020 to 2022 he was permanently engaged at the Volksoper Vienna, whereas he was an annual guest conductor from 2014 to 2020. At this company he conducted an extraordinarily extense amount of repertoire from Mozart and Puccini over the classics of the operetta genre to Richard Strauss, Krenek, Britten and many World, European or Austrian premieres (Henze, Glanert, Lange, Machover, Dienz ...). Under his musical direction, the Volksoper production of Hector Berlioz's "Roméo et Juliette" was awarded the Austrian Music Theatre Prize for "Best Ballet Production" 2018.

From 2001 to 2006, he had worked as conductor and study director at the Theater Erfurt, also conducting significant parts of the house repertoire.

Gerrit Prießnitz graduated "with distinction" from the Salzburg Mozarteum University in 2001. In the orchestra conducting class of Prof. Dennis Russell Davies and the choir conducting class of Prof. Karl Kamper he also received the prize for extraordinary artistic achievements of the Austrian Ministry of Education and Culture, the Bernhard Paumgartner Medal of the International Mozarteum Foundation, scholarships of the Ministry of Education and the ERASMUS programme of the EU.

From 2017 until 2023, Gerrit Prießnitz has held a teaching position at the Private University of Music and Art in Vienna (MUK) for opera in the conducting programme.

REVIEWS

SYMPHONY CONCERT GLANERT, BEETHOVEN, BRAHMS

"...he presents himself as an extremely experienced, prudent conductor, temperamentally controlled, who has obviously quickly found the connection to the musicians and whom one would like to see here again. ... The jubilation in the hall is great ... tightly covered by conductor and orchestra with a great arc of tension ...

Prießnitz has carefully worked with his musicians on the complex motivics, the jubilant melodic lines in strings and wood, the mighty roaring, armored brass interjections."

VORARLBERGER NACHRICHTEN, Fritz Jurmann, 2022-12-06

"DEATH IN VENICE" VOLKSOPER VIENNA

"With Benjamin Britten's last opera, the Volksoper Wien lands an unprecedented triumph ... Prießnitz not only contours clearly and creates instrumental seismograms of moods, he is also, for once, a conductor who can lead the orchestra, which is only of medium size, but with percussion and sophisticated orchestra to breathtaking climaxes of excessive dynamics. dynamics. And then he lets the epilogue flow with all the beauty of Mahlerian love-and-death fragility in the strings, in a way that is so beautiful, so tender and touching, so drunk with affection and tenderness, has hardly ever been heard. An evening in which everything was perfect down to the last detail - a great evening, an evening in which the Volksoper played at world level."

WIENER ZEITUNG, Edwin Baumgartner, 2022-05-16

"Gerrit Prießnitz worked out Britten's subtle score with the Volksoper Orchestra very convincingly. Refined plays of colour succeeded just as well as the large arches or the explosive dramatic moments.

The cast is coherent right down to the small parts."

KRONENZEITUNG, Karlheinz Roschitz, 2022-05-16

"LEYLA UND MEDJUN" VOLKSOPER VIENNA

"The best comes last! ... a veritable treasure ... balm for the soul ... 4 ½ out of 5 stars!"

KURIER, Peter Jarolin, 2021-06-16

"A proven expert for contemporary music theatre."

RADIO KLASSIK, Marion Eigl, 2021-06-09

"THE CANTERVILLE GHOST" VOLKSOPER VIENNA

" (...) Now glowing in the most beautiful colors which the orchestra also let acoustically shine. Melancholy and wit appeared cultivated and pointedly. It should always sound like that."

DER STANDARD, Ljubisa Tomic, 2019-11-20

"A masterpiece (...) which could not have found a better proponent for the premiere performance than conductor Gerrit Prießnitz. With precise cues and stringent dynamics, he made the ideally rehearsed Volksoper orchestra and choir impeccable narrators of the story."

WIENER ZEITUNG, Daniel Wagner, 2019-11-21

"AMLETO" THEATRE CHEMNITZ

"In the pit Gerrit Priessnitz turns out to be a true magician on the baton. From the powerful entrance bars over the colorful preludes and interludes to the soulful aria accompaniment, simply everything succeeds ... the thrilling direction and the excellent performance of the vocal ensemble a true Gesamtkunstwerk."

DER OPERNFREUND, Jochen Rueth, 2018-11-04

"JOSEPHSLEGENDE" VIENNA STATE OPERA

"Gerrit Priessnitz at the podium of the Vienna State Opera Orchestra conducts with verve, elegance and splendid color."

KRONENZEITUNG, Karlheinz Roschitz, 2017-12-21

"DER VOGELHÄNDLER" MÖRBISCH FESTIVAL

"The Mörbisch Festival shows a great Vogelhändler.
Musically, scenically, atmospherically – here everything is just right."
DER TAGESSPIEGEL BERLIN, Frederik Hanssen, 2017-07-14

"DIE HARMONIE DER WELT" LANDESTHEATER LINZ

"The - even in the very dense passages - always vivid and transparent performance under the careful direction of Gerrit Priessnitz contributes decisively to the success of the three-hour-long evening. Even the delicate scenes of the fanned-out choir never wobble."
FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG, Reinhard Kager, 2017-04-18

"The Bruckner Orchestra plays the score like freshly in love with Hindemith's rich instrumentation, full of lusciously sensual colors."
OPERNWELT, Michael Stallknecht, June 2017

"LA BELLE HÉLÈNE" HAMBURG STATE OPERA

"The orchestra under the conductor Gerrit Priessnitz did everything to push Offenbach's music a little towards Rossini, with a beautiful, transparent, resilient sound – its best possible interpretation."
DIE ZEIT, Jens Jessen, 2014-10-13

Repertoire Opera

Abraham: Die Blume von Hawaii

Beethoven: Fidelio

Bizet: Carmen

Bock: Fiddler on the roof

Britten: Albert Herring

Britten: The Turn of the Screw

Britten: Death in Venice

Donizetti: L'elisir d'amore

Dvořák: Rusalka

Faccio: Amleto (German Premiere)

Fall: The Dollar Princess

Glanert: Leyla und Medjnun (Austrian Premiere)

Glass: Waiting for the Barbarians (World Premiere)

Henze: Das Wundertheater (Austrian Premiere)

Henze: Pollicino

Heuberger: Der Opernball

Hindemith: Die Harmonie der Welt

Humperdinck: Hänsel und Gretel

Kálmán: Die Csardasfürstin

Kálmán: Gräfin Mariza

Kálmán: Die Bajadere

Kienzl: Der Evangelimann

Krenek: Kehraus um St. Stephan

Krenek: The Secret Kingdom

Lange: The Canterville Ghost (Austrian Premiere)

Lehar: The Merry Widow

Leoncavallo: I Pagliacci

Lincke: Frau Luna

Lortzing: Zar und Zimmermann

Machover: Schoenberg in Hollywood (European Premiere)
Massenet: Don Quichotte (excerpts)
Maxwell Davies: Mr Emmet takes a walk

Mozart: The Magic Flute
Mozart: The abduction from the seraglio
Mozart: Le nozze di Figaro

Offenbach: Les contes d'Hoffmann
Offenbach: Vent du Soir
Offenbach: La Belle Hélène

Orff: Die Kluge (Versions for full orchestra and for two pianos with percussion)

Puccini: La Bohème
Puccini: Tosca
Puccini: Il Tabarro
Puccini: Suor Angelica
Puccini: Gianni Schicchi

Ravel: L'heure espagnole

Rodgers: The Sound of Music
Rota: Aladdin

Šenk: Canvas (World Premiere)
Shostakovich: Lady Macbeth of Mzensk
Smetana: The Bartered Bride

Strauss: Salome
Strauss: Ariadne auf Naxos
Strauss: Friedenstag
Strauss: Der Rosenkavalier (excerpts)

Strauß: The Bat
Strauß: Vienna Blood
Strauß: A Night in Venice

Su: Cuba Libre (World Premiere)

Tchaikovsky: Eugene Onegin

Trojahn: Limonen aus Sizilien

Verdi: Rigoletto
Verdi: Aida

Wagner: Tannhäuser
Wagner: Die Feen (Version: M.-A. Floros)

Weber: Der Freischütz

Zeller: Der Vogelhändler

REPERTOIRE ORCHESTRA

Albeniz: Iberia (Evocation, Fete-Dieu a Seville, Triana)
Auber: Overture "Fra Diavolo"

Bach: St Matthew's Passion BWV 244
Joh. Chr. Bach: Symphony g minor op.6, No.6
Beethoven: Symphonies No. 1 op.21, No. 3 op.55 "Eroica", No. 4 op.60,
No. 7 op.92, No. 8 op.93, No. 9 op.125
Beethoven: Overtures "Fidelio", "Coriolan" op.62, "Die Geschöpfe des Prometheus" op.43
"Leonore I" op.138, "Leonore III" op.72c
Beethoven: Piano Concertos No.1 op.15, No. 3 op.37, No. 4 op.58
Beethoven: Triple Concerto op.56

Berg: Three Orchestral Pieces op.6
Berlioz: Le Carnaval Romain op.9
Berlioz: Symphonie fantastique
Berlioz: Symphonie dramatique "Roméo et Juliette" op.17
Bizet: Jeux d'enfants - Suite op.22
Bizet: Symphony in C
Bottesini: Concerto for Double Bass and Orchestra b minor

Brahms: Tragic Overture op.81
Brahms: Symphonies No. 1 op.68, No. 3 op.90, No. 4 op.98
Brahms: Serenade No. 1 op.11
Brahms: Haydn Variations op.56
Brahms: Violin Concerto op.77
Brahms: Piano Concerto No.1 op.15
Bruch: Romance for Viola and orchestra

Cherubini: Overture "Lodoïska"
Chopin/ Francaix: 24 Préludes
Copland: Old American Songs
Copland: Appalachian Spring
Creston: Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra

Danzi: Sinfonia Concertante in E flat
Debussy: Children's Corner (Orch.: Andre Caplet)
Dienz: lux umbra (World Premiere)
Dvořák: Symphonies No. 6 op.60, No. 7 op.70, No. 8 op.88
Dvořák: Serenade op.44
Dvořák: Carnival op.92

Elgar: Serenade for Strings op.20
Elgar: In the South (Alassio)
Fuleihan: Fantasy for Theremin and Orchestra

Gimenez: La boda de Luis Alonso – Intermedio
Glanert: Weites Land (Austrian Premiere)
Glinka: Overture "Ruslan and Ludmilla"
Gossec: Symphony "La chasse" op.13

Haydn: Symphonies No.6-8 "Le matin", "Le midi", "Le soir", No. 73 "La Chasse",
No. 92 "Oxford", No. 101 "The Clock", No. 103 "With the drum roll", No. 104 "London"
Haydn: Trumpet Concerto

Henze: First Suite from "Undine"
Henze: Symphony No. 1 (1991 version)
Henze: Aria de la folía espanola
Henze: "Fantasia" for string orchestra
Hindemith: Mathis der Maler – Symphony
Hindemith: Der Schwanendreher – Concerto for viola and orchestra
Hummel: Concerto for Trumpet and Orchestra in E flat

Kodály: Dances from Galanta
Korngold: Baby Serenade op.24
Korngold: Military March in B
Korngold: Suite from "The Sea Hawk"
Krenek: Eleven Transparencies op.142
Kuusisto: Violin Concerto (Serbian Premiere)

Lipovsek: Antichaos - Symphonic Sketch
Liszt: "At Richard Wagner's Grave" – Symphonic Poem
Lortzing: Overture "Der Wildschütz"

Mahler: Symphonies No. 1, No. 4, Adagio from the Symphony No. 10, Blumine
Mahler: Orchestral Songs from "Des Knaben Wunderhorn"
Mahler: Songs of a Wayfarer

Mendelssohn: Overtures "The Hebrides", "Das Märchen von der schönen Melusine",
"The Marriage of the Camacho", "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
Mendelssohn: Symphonies No. 4 op.90 "Italian", No. 5 op.107 "Reformation"
Mendelssohn: Piano Concerto No. 1 op.25
Milhaud: Concerto for Vibraphone, Marimba and Orchestra op.407
Milhaud: Petites Symphonies Nos. 1, 2, 3
Millöcker: Overture "Diana"

Mozart: Symphonies No. 28 K 200, No. 31 K 297 "Paris", No. 33 K 319, No. 34 K 338,
No. 39 K 543, No. 40 K 550, No. 41 K 551 "Jupiter"
Mozart: Serenades K 361 "Gran Partita", "Posthorn" K 320
Mozart: Concerto for Flute and Orchestra K 313
Mozart: Concerto for piano and orchestra No. 21 K 467

Offenbach: Overture and Entr'Actes from "La Grande-Duchesse de Gerolstein" and "Orphee aux enfers"
Prokofiev: Symphonie classique op.25
Prokofiev: Concerto for Flute and Orchestra op.94 (Orch.: R. Palmer)
Prokofiev: Concerto for Violin and Orchestra No. 1 op.19
Prokofiev: Romeo and Juliet op.64 (complete ballet)

Rachmaninov: Symphony No. 2 op.27
Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No. 2 op.18
Rautavaara: Cantus Arcticus
Ravel: La Valse
Ravel: Pavane pour une infante defunte
Ravel: Ma Mere L'Oye - Suite
Ravel: Piano Concerto in G
Ravel: Don Quichotte a Dulcinée

Rossini: Overtures "Il barbiere di Siviglia", "Guillaume Tell", "La gazza ladra", "Semiramide", "La scala di seta"
Rubinstein: "Don Quichotte" - Symphonic Poem

Schubert: Symphonies No. 5 D 485, No. 6 D 589, No. 7 D 795 "Unfinished", No. 8 D 944 "Great"
Schubert: Intermezzo from "Rosamunde", Overture "Die Zauberharfe"

Schumann: Symphonies No.1 op.38 "Spring", No. 2 op.61, No. 3 op.97 "Rhenish"
Schumann: Piano Concerto op.54
Schumann: Violin Concerto in d minor WoO 23
Clara Schumann: Piano Concerto op.7
Sibelius: Finlandia
Sibelius: Symphony No. 7 op.105 (Serbian Premiere)
Skrzypczak: Mouvement fantastique (World Premiere)

Strauss: "Josephs Legende" op.63
Strauss: Divertimento op.86
Strauss: "Aus Italien" – Symphonic Fantasy op.16
Strauss: Four symphonic interludes from "Intermezzo"
Strauss: Don Juan
Strauss: Metamorphosen
Strauss: Waltzes from the IIIrd act "Der Rosenkavalier"

Strauß: Overtures "The Bat", "The Gipsy Baron", "A Night in Venice", numerous waltzes and polkas,
e.g. Kaiserwalzer, Künstlerleben, Frühlingsstimmen, Rosen aus dem Süden, Accelerationen,
At the beautiful blue danube, Egyptischer Marsch, Leichtes Blut, Vergnügungszug,
Champagner-Polka, Nur fort!, Eljen a magyar, Ohne Sorgen, Plappermälchen, Tritsch-Tratsch-Polka

Sulzer: "Seitenblicke" - Concert Scenes for Bassethorn and Strings
Szymanowski: Stabat Mater op. 53
Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker (complete ballet)
Tchaikovsky: Roccoco Variations op.33
Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1 op.23

Verdi: Overtures "Nabucco", "I Vespri Siciliani"

Wagner: Siegfried-Idyll
Wagner: Overture "The Flying Dutchman"
Wagner: Prelude and "Liebestod" from "Tristan und Isolde"
Wagner: Prelude to the first & third act "Lohengrin", first & third act "Die Meistersinger von Nuremberg"
Wagner: "Forest Murmurs" from "Siegfried"
Wagner: "Siegfried's Rhine Journey" and Immolation Scene from "Götterdämmerung"

Weber: Overture "Oberon"
Webern: Passacaglia op.1
Webern: Concerto op.24
Wolf-Ferrari: Concertino for English horn and Orchestra op.34

Zemlinsky: Tanzpoem
Zemlinsky: Sinfonietta

