

GERRIT PRIESSNITZ

CONDUCTOR

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CURRENT

Tyrolean State Theatre

Since 2024

Chief Conductor

Graz Arts University KUG

Since 2023

Professor of Opera Performance
(musical interpretation and ensemble
coaching)

"An unprecedented triumph", "temperament, esprit and sensitivity", "full of verve, elegance and splendid colour", "a musical tour de force" – Gerrit Priessnitz receives unanimous praise for his interpretations of the classical-romantic repertoire as well as for his conducting of contemporary music.

The Bonn-born conductor is Chief Conductor of the Tyrolean State Theatre in Innsbruck and a sought-after guest at the podium of various international orchestras and opera houses. His recent debuts have included appearances with the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, the Belgrade Philharmonic, and the Filharmonie Brno. In 2024, he conducted for the first time both the Nuremberg State Philharmonic and the Bochum Symphony Orchestra.

After completing his studies with distinction at the University "Mozarteum" in Salzburg, he was initially engaged at the Theatre of Erfurt. He then worked in various capacities at the Volksoper Vienna from 2006 to 2023, conducting a wide-ranging repertoire from Mozart, Berlioz and Strauss to Henze, Trojahn and Glanert. In the 2018/19 season, Gerrit Priessnitz was appointed Principal Guest Conductor at the Theatre of Chemnitz.

Guest engagements have taken him repeatedly to the Vienna State Opera, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, as well as to Japan and South Korea, the Hamburg State Opera, the Cologne Opera, the Bruckner Orchestra and the State Theatre of Linz, as well as to Lucerne, Sofia, Bologna, Bari, Córdoba, the Mörbisch Lake Festival and numerous German orchestras and opera houses: including the MDR Leipzig Radio Symphony Orchestra, Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, Aalto Theatre Essen, Munich Radio Orchestra, Staatskapelle Halle, Beethovenfest Bonn, Augsburg State Theatre, Württemberg Philharmonic Orchestra, Reutlingen Philharmonic, Wuppertal Symphony Orchestra, North German Philharmonic Rostock, Brandenburg State Orchestra, and the Dortmund Philharmonic, among others.

CD and DVD productions featuring Gerrit Priessnitz have been released by labels such as Sony Classical and Unitel. In 2023, he was appointed Professor at the Institute for Music Theatre at the University of Music and Performing Arts Graz, having previously held a teaching position in opera at the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna (MUK) from 2017.

In 2024, Gerrit Priessnitz was awarded the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art.

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REVIEWS

Richard Strauss – Der Rosenkavalier Tyrolean State Theatre Innsbruck

"The Tyrolean Symphony Orchestra Innsbruck, under its new Chief Conductor Gerrit Prießnitz, radiates a wealth of refined sonority and offers no shortage of rhythmic tension and heartfelt emotionality. Thunderous applause!"

30 December 2024, Helmut Christian Mayer, *Kurier*

Detlev Glanert – Leyla and Medjnun (Austrian Premiere) Volksoper Vienna

"The best comes last! ... A veritable treasure ... Balm for the soul ... 4½ out of 5 stars."

16 June 2021, Peter Jarolin, *Kurier*

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Così fan tutte University of Music and Performing Arts Graz

"Mozart, interpreted freshly and with virtuosity ... The University of Arts Graz presents a successful rendition of Così fan tutte ... Gerrit Prießnitz, leading the brilliantly performing orchestra, strikes a balance of temperament, esprit, and sensitivity."

12 December 2023, Eva Schulz, *Kleine Zeitung Graz*

Richard Strauss – Josephslegende Vienna State Opera

"Gerrit Prießnitz conducts the State Opera Orchestra with verve, elegance, and splendid colour."

21 December 2017, Karlheinz Roschitz, *Kronen Zeitung*

Giacomo Puccini – La Bohème Tyrolean State Theatre Innsbruck

"Thunderous applause ... a musical tour de force."

20 November 2023, Franz Gratl, *Kronen Zeitung*

Paul Hindemith – Die Harmonie der Welt Landestheater Linz

"The success of this over three-hour-long evening owes much to the vivid and consistently transparent performance by the Bruckner Orchestra Linz, under the careful direction of Gerrit Prießnitz. Even the most challenging choral passages never wavered."

18 April 2017, Reinhard Kager, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

Peter Maxwell Davies – Mr Emmet Takes a Walk / Giacomo Puccini – Suor Angelica

University of Music and Performing Arts Graz

"He guided Peter Maxwell Davies' intricate score with precision and clarity and captured the exact pulse and tone of Giacomo Puccini's subtle and colourful music. The exceptionally prepared ensemble offered nuanced and atmospheric detailing, thrilling tension, and bustling vitality ... Enthusiastic ovations!"

5 June 2023, Helmut Christian Mayer, *Opera Online / Kleine Zeitung Graz*

Benjamin Britten – Death in Venice Volksoper Vienna

"And then he lets the postlude flow through the strings with all the fragility of Mahlerian love and death – so beautiful, so tender and moving, so intoxicated with affection and tenderness, one has rarely heard it like this. An evening where every detail was just right – a great evening, one in which the Volksoper played on a world-class level."

16 May 2022, Edwin Baumgartner, *Wiener Zeitung*

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REPERTOIRE OPERA

COMING UP

Mozart: Idomeneo
Mozart: Don Giovanni
Wagner: Lohengrin
Chernyshkov: Heute schrieb ich nix (WP)

CONDUCTED IN PERFORMANCE

Abraham: Die Blume von Hawaii

Beethoven: Fidelio
Bizet: Carmen
Bock: Anatevka/ Fiddler on the roof
Britten: Albert Herring
Britten: The Turn of the Screw
Britten: Death in Venice

Donizetti: L'elisir d'amore
Dvorák: Rusalka

Faccio: Amleto (GP)
Fall: Die Dollarprinzessin

Glanert: Leyla und Medjnun (AP)
Glass: Waiting for the barbarians
Gounod: Faust

Henze: Pollicino
Henze: Das Wundertheater (AP)
Heuberger: Der Opernball
Hindemith: Die Harmonie der Welt
Humperdinck: Hänsel und Gretel

Jost: Die Arabische Nacht (AP)

Kálmán: Gräfin Mariza
Kálmán: Die Csárdásfürstin
Kálmán: Die Bajadere
Kienzl: Der Evangelimann
Krenek: Das Geheime Königreich
Krenek: Kehraus um St. Stephan

Lange: Das Gespenst von Canterville (AP)
Lehár: Die Lustige Witwe
Leoncavallo: I Pagliacci
Lincke: Frau Luna
Lortzing: Zar und Zimmermann

[AP=Austrian Premiere, EP=European Premiere,
GP=German Premiere, WP=World Premiere]

Machover: Schoenberg in Hollywood (EP)
Maxwell Davies: Mr Emmet takes a walk

Mozart: Die Zauberflöte
Mozart: Le nozze di Figaro
Mozart: Così fan tutte
Mozart: Die Entführung aus dem Serail
Mozart: La clemenza di Tito

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

Puccini: Tosca
Puccini: La Bohème
Puccini: Il tabarro/ Gianni Schicchi/ Suor Angelica

Ravel: L'heure espagnole
Rodgers: The Sound of Music
Romberg: New Moon/ Neumond
Rota: Aladdin
Schönberg: Von heute auf morgen
Šenk: canvas (WP)
Shostakovich: Lady Macbeth of Mzensk
Smetana: Die verkaufte Braut

Strauss: Ariadne auf Naxos
Strauss: Salome
Strauss: Friedenstag
Strauss: Der Rosenkavalier
Strauß: Die Fledermaus
Strauß: Wiener Blut
Strauß: Eine Nacht in Venedig

Su: Cuba Libre (WP)
Tschaikowsky: Eugen Onegin
Trojahn: Limonen aus Sizilien

Verdi: Rigoletto
Verdi: Aida

Wagner: Tannhäuser
Wagner/ Floros: Die Feen

Weber: Der Freischütz

Zeller: Der Vogelhändler

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REPERTOIRE CONCERT

Albéniz: Iberia (Evocation, Fête-Dieu à Seville, Triana)
Auber: Overture to Fra Diavolo
Bach, J.S.: St Matthew Passion BWV 244
Bach, J.C.: Symphony in G minor, Op. 6 No. 6

Beethoven: Symphonies No. 1 in C major, Op. 21, Mo. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 55 "Eroica", No. 4 in B-flat major, Op. 60, No. 7 in A major, Op. 92, Mo. 8 in F major, Op. 93, No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125
Overtures Fidelio, The Creatures of Prometheus Op. 43, Leonore No. 3 Op. 72, Coriolan, Leonore No. 1 Op. 138
Piano Concertos: No. 1 in C major, Op. 15, No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37, No. 4 in G major, Op. 58

Berg: Three Orchestral Pieces, Op. 6
Berlioz: Roman Carnival Overture, Op. 9
Dramatic Symphony Roméo et Juliette, Op. 17
Symphonie fantastique

Bizet: Jeux d'enfants – Suite, Op. 22
Symphony in C major
CNOTtesini: Concerto for Double Bass and Orchestra in B minor
Brahms: Tragic Overture, Op. 81
Symphonies No. 1 in C minor, Op. 68 and No. 4 in E minor, Op. 98
Variations on a Theme by Haydn
Serenade No. 1 in D major, Op. 11
Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 77, Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Op. 15, Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major, Op. 83
Hungarian Dances Nos. 1, 3, 10

Bruch: Romanze for Viola and Orchestra, Op. 85
Cherubini: Overture to Lodoïska
Chopin/Françaix: 24 Préludes (arr. Françaix)
Copland: Pld American Songs
Appalachian Spring
Creston: Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra

Danzi: Sinfonia Concertante in E-flat major
Debussy (orch. André Caplet): Children's Corner
Delius: Two Pieces for Small Orchestra
Dienz: lux umbra (World Premiere)
Dvořák: Symphonies No. 6 in D major, Op. 60; No. 7 in D minor, Op. 70; No. 8 in G major, Op. 88
Serenade for Winds in D minor, Op. 44
Carnival Overture, Op. 92

Dvořák: Slavonic Dances, Op. 46
Elgar: In the South (Alassio), Op. 50
Elgar: Serenade in E minor, Op. 20

Fuleihan: Fantasy for Theremin and Orchestra

Giménez: La boda de Luis Alonso – Intermezzo
Glanert: Weites Land (Austrian Premiere)
Glinka: Overture to Ruslan and Lyudmila
Gossec: Symphony La Chasse in D major, Op. 13

Haydn: Symphonies No. 6 in D major "Le matin", No. 7 in C major "Le midi", No. 8 in G major "Le soir", No. 73 in D major "La Chasse", No. 92 in G major "Oxford", No. 101 in D major "The Clock", No. 103 in E-flat major "Drumroll", Mo. 104 in D major "London"
Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major

Henze: Symphony No. 1 (1991 version)
First Suite from "Undine", Fantasia for String Orchestra, Aria de la folía espanola

Hindemith: Symphony Mathis der Maler
Hindemith: Der Schwanendreher
Hummel: Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major

Khachaturian: Concerto for Cello and Orchestra
Kodály: Dances of Galánta
Korngold: Baby Serenade, Op. 24, Military March in B-flat major
Krenek: Eleven Transparencies, Op. 142
Kuusisto: Violin Concerto

Lipovšek: Antichaos – Symphonic Sketch
Liszt: At the Grave of Richard Wagner
Lortzing: Overture to Der Wildschütz

Mahler: Symphony No. 1 in D major, No. 4 in G major, Adagio from Symphony No. 10 in F-sharp minor, Blumine
Orchestral Songs from Des Knaben Wunderhorn
Songs of a Wayfarer (Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen)

Mendelssohn: Overtures: The Hebrides, The Fair Melusine, Op. 32; A Midsummer Night's Dream; Camacho's Wedding
Sinfonia No. 11 in F major, Sinfonia No. 12 in G minor
Symphonies No. 4 in A major, Op. 90 "Italian", and No. 5 in D minor, Op. 107 "Reformation"
Piano Concerto No. 1 in G minor, Op. 25

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Milhaud: Concerto for Vibraphone, Marimba and Orchestra, Op. 407, Petites Symphonies No. 1 "Le Printemps", No. 2 "Pastorale", No. 3 "Sérénade"

Millöcker: Overture to Diana

Mozart: Symphonies No. 28 in C major, K. 200, No. 31 in D major, K. 297 "Paris", No. 33 in B-flat major, K. 319, No. 34 in C major, K. 338, No. 39 in E-flat major, K. 543, No. 40 in G minor, K. 550, No. 41 in C major, K. 551 "Jupiter"

Serenades: K. 361 "Gran Partita", K. 320 "Posthorn"
Flute Concerto in G major, K. 313, Piano Concerto in C major, K. 467

Nielsen: Overture to Maskarade

Offenbach: Overtures and Interludes from La Grande-Duchesse de Gérolstein and Orpheus in the Underworld

Paganini: Grande Sonate for Viola and Orchestra

Prokofiev: Classical Symphony in D major, Op. 25, Flute Concerto, Op. 94 (orch. R. Palmer), Violin Concerto No. 1, Op. 19, Romeo and Juliet, Op. 64 (complete)

Rachmaninoff: Symphony No. 2 in E minor, Op. 27, Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor, Op. 18

Rautavaara: Cantus Arcticus

Ravel: La Valse, Pavane pour une infante défunte, Ma Mère l'Oye – Suite (Mother Goose), Don Quichotte à Dulcinée, Piano Concerto in G major

Reger: A Romantic Suite, Op. 125

Rossini: Overtures: The Barber of Seville, William Tell, The Thieving Magpie, Semiramide, The Silken Ladder

Rubinstein: Don Quixote – Symphonic Poem

Salieri: 26 Variations on "La Follia"

Schmidt: Carnival Music from Notre Dame

Schubert: Symphonies No. 5 in B-flat major, D 485, No. 6 in C major, D 589, No. 7 in B minor, D 795 "Unfinished", No. 8 in C major, D 844 "Great C major", Symphony in E major (World Premiere, completed by Richard Dünser)

Intermezzo from Rosamunde

The Magic Harp – Overture, D 644

Schumann: Symphonies No. 1 in B-flat major, Op. 38 "Spring", No. 2 in C major, Op. 61, No. 3 in E-flat major, Op. 97 "Rhenish"

Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 54, Violin Concerto in D minor, WoO 23

Clara Schumann: Piano Concerto in A minor, Op. 7

Sibelius: Finlandia, Symphony No. 7 in C major, Op. 105
Skrzypczak: Mouvement fantastique (World Premiere)

Strauss: Josephslegende, Op. 63, Metamorphosen, Divertimento, Op. 86, From Italy, Op. 16 (Aus Italien), Four Symphonic Interludes from Intermezzo, Don Juan, Moonlight Music from Capriccio (Mondscheinmusik), Waltz Sequence from Der Rosenkavalier

Johann Strauss II and others (Strauss Family):

Overture to The Gypsy Baron, Emperor Waltz, Artist's Life, Tales from the Vienna Woods, Voices of Spring, Roses from the South, Accelerations, The Blue Danube, Egyptian March, Light of Heart, Pleasure Train, Champagne Polka, Nur fort!, Eljen a Magyar, Chatterbox Polka, Tritsch-Tratsch-Polka, and many more

Stravinsky: Les Noces

Sulzer: Seitenblicke

Suppé: Overture to Jolly Robbers (Banditenstreiche)

Szymanowski: Stabat Mater, Op. 53

Trojan: Autumn Music – Austrian Premiere

Tchaikovsky: The Nutcracker (complete)

Variations on a Rococo Theme, Op. 33

Piano Concerto No. 1 in B-flat minor, Op. 23

Vasks: Musica adventus (version for string orchestra)

Lonely Angel, Vox amoris

Verdi: Overtures to Nabucco and I Vespri Siciliani

Wagner: Prelude and Liebestod from Tristan und Isolde, Overture to The Flying Dutchman, Siegfried Idyll, Preludes to Lohengrin and Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Orchestral excerpts from The Ring of the Nibelung: Entry of the Gods into Valhalla, Dawn and Siegfried's Rhine Journey, Forest Murmurs, Brünnhilde's Immolation Scene

Weber: Overture to Oberon

Webern: Passacaglia, Op. 1, Concerto, Op. 24

Wolf-Ferrari: Concertino for English Horn and Orchestra, Op. 34

Zemlinsky: Sinfonietta, Dance Poem (Tanzpoem)

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