

GERRIT PRIESSNITZ

Gerrit Priessnitz was born in Bonn. He is currently active as a freelance conductor internationally and holds a professorship as musical head of the opera department at the University of Arts Graz (KUG). Recent debuts have included the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra (SPO), the Filharmonie Brno, the Beethovenfest Bonn, the Belgrade Philharmonic, and the Symphony Orchestra Vorarlberg. In 2018/19 he served as "Principal Guest Conductor" of the Theater Chemnitz.

At the Vienna State Opera he conducted the premiere of Hans Werner Henze's "Pollicino", followed by re-invitations for "The Nutcracker", Richard Strauss' "Josephslegende" and 2023 for Pärt's "Tabula Rasa". In 2014 he led "Fidelio" at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the premiere of "La Belle Hélène" at the Hamburg State Opera, after which he was immediately invited to stand in for "Carmen".

Gerrit Priessnitz has worked with the most distinguished singers of our time, such as Piotr Beczala, Linda Watson, Klaus Florian Vogt, Vesselina Kasarova and Jennifer Larmore.



Photo: Viktoria Vucheva

His extensive guest activities have also led him to the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, Cologne Opera, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Aalto Musiktheater Essen, MDR Symphony Orchestra Leipzig, the Golden Hall of the Vienna Musikverein, Vienna Konzerthaus, Brucknerhaus Linz (Bruckner Orchestra), Bunka Kaikan Tokyo, Aichi Arts Center Nagoya, the Munich

Radio Orchestra, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic, to the Staatskapelle Halle, Dortmund Philharmonic Orchestra, Schwerin Festival, the Brandenburg State Orchestra, Northwest German Philharmonic Herford, Württemberg Philharmonic Reutlingen, Nuremberg Symphony, Lucerne Theater, the Slovenian National Theater Maribor, to the Landestheater Linz – the "Opernwelt" described this production of Hindemith's "Die Harmonie der Welt" as "Rediscovery of the Year" – to the Mörbisch Lake Festival and to the Tonkünstlerorchester Lower Austria.

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. He performed an extraordinarily broad repertoire from Mozart and Puccini to Krenek and Strauss, to the classics of operetta and numerous premieres. Under his musical direction Berlioz' "Roméo et Juliette" was awarded the Austrian Music Theater Prize for the "Best Ballet Production".

Previously, from 2001 to 2006, he was Kapellmeister and Head of Music Staff at the Erfurt Theater. There, too, he conducted significant parts of the company's repertoire from Lortzing to Glass.

Gerrit Priessnitz completed his education in 2001 at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg "with distinction". In the orchestral conducting class of Prof. Dennis Russell Davies and the choral conducting class of Prof. Karl Kamper he received, among others, the Bernhard-Paumgartner-Medal of the International Mozarteum Foundation, scholarships of the Ministry of Education and the ERASMUS program of the EU.

From 2017 to 2023 he held a lecturer position at the Music and Arts University (MUK) of the City of Vienna for opera in the conducting department.

REVIEWS

MAXWELL DAVIES, PUCCINI

"And Gerrit Priessnitz, the new professor for musical interpretation, had a mastery of the KUG opera orchestra, which consists of excellent students. He led the orchestra through Peter Maxwell Davies' difficult score with precision and clarity, and he exactly captured the pulse and tone of Giacomo Puccini's subtle and colorful music. In the best-disposed orchestra, one experienced shading and atmospheric detail, exciting tension and chattering vitality. Jubilation!"

KLEINE ZEITUNG/ OPERA ONLINE, Helmut Chr. Mayer, 2023-06-05

GLANERT, BEETHOVEN, BRAHMS SOV

"... tightly covered by conductor and orchestra with a great arc of tension ... Priessnitz worked carefully with his musicians on the complex motivics, the jubilant melodic lines in strings and woods, the mighty rushing, armoured brass interjections. ... extremely experienced, prudent conductor, temperamentally controlled, who obviously quickly found his rapport with the musicians and whom one would like to see here again ... The communication between the highly musical soloist and the orchestra with its many fine wind dialogues could not have been more coherent. The cheers in the hall are great."

VORARLBERGER NACHRICHTEN, Fritz Jurmann, 2022-12-05

"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 brass orchestration to breathtaking climaxes of excessive 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 arcs or the explosive dramatic moments. The cast is coherent right down to the small parts."

KRONENZEITUNG, Karlheinz Roschitz, 2022-05-16



Photo: Belgrade Philharmonic

"LEYLA UND MEDJNUN" 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 Tasic, 2019-11-20

"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. His flawless conducting makes the evening together with 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 colorfulness."

KRONENZEITUNG, Karlheinz Roschitz,
2017-12-21

"DER VOGELHÄNDLER" MÖRBISCH FESTIVAL

"The Mörbisch Festival shows a great Vogelhändler. Musically, scenically, atmospherically – 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 FAZ,
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, springy 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 Csárdásfürstin

Kálmán: Gräfin Mariza

Kálmán: Die Bajadere

Kienzl: Der Evangelimann

Krenek: Kehraus um St. Stephan

Krenek: The Secret Kingdom

Lange: The Canterville Ghost (Austrian Premiere)

Lehár: 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

Mozart: Così fan tutte

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



Photo: Barbara Pálffy

Ravel: L'heure espagnole

Rodgers: The Sound of Music

Rota: Aladdin

Šenk: canvas (World Premiere 2023)

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, Fête-Dieu à 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
Overtures "Fidelio", "Coriolan" op.62, "Die Geschöpfe des Prometheus" op.43, "Leonore I" op.138, "Leonore III" op.72c
Piano Concertos No.1 op.15, No. 3 op.37, No. 4 op.58
Triple Concerto op.56

Berg: Three Orchestral Pieces op.6
Berlioz: "Le Carnaval Romain" op.9
Berlioz: Symphonie fantastique
Berlioz: "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
Symphonies No. 1 op.68, No. 3 op.90, No. 4 op.98
Serenade No. 1 op.11
Haydn Variations op.56
Violin Concerto op.77
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
Serenade op.44
Carnival op.92

Elgar: Serenade for Strings op.20
Elgar: In the South (Alassio) op.50
Fuleihan: Fantasy for Theremin and Orchestra

Jimenez: 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"
Trumpet Concerto

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

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"
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", "The fairy-tale of the beautiful Melusine", "The Marriage of the Camacho", "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
Symphonies No. 4 op.90 "Italian", No. 5 op.107 "Reformation"
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"

Serenades K 361 "Gran Partita", "Posthorn" K 320

Concerto for Flute and Orchestra K 313

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 (ballet)

Rachmaninov: Symphony No. 2 op.27

Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No. 2 op.18

Rautavaara: Cantus Arcticus

Ravel

La Valse, Pavane pour une infante défunte

Ma Mere L'Oye – Suite, Don Quichotte a Dulcinée

Piano Concerto in G

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"

Intermezzo from "Rosamunde", Overture "Die Zauberharfe"

Schumann

Symphonies No.1 op.38 "Spring", No. 2 op.61, No. 3 op.97 "Rhenish"

Piano Concerto op.54

Violin Concerto in d minor WoO 23

Clara Schumann: Piano Concerto op.7

Sibelius: Finlandia

Sibelius: Symphony No. 7 op.105

Skrzypczak: Mouvement fantastique (World Premiere)

Strauss

"Josephs Legende" op.63, Divertimento op.86

"Aus Italien" – Symphonic Fantasy op.16

Four symphonic interludes from "Intermezzo"

Don Juan, Metamorphosen

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" 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

Vasks: Musica adventus, Vox amoris, Lonely Angel

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

Wagner

Siegfried-Idyll

Overture "The Flying Dutchman"

Prelude and "Liebestod" from "Tristan und Isolde"

Preludes to the first & third act "Lohengrin", first & third act "Die Meistersinger von Nuremberg"

"Forest Murmurs" from "Siegfried", "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