

Christoph Prégardien, Tenor

Biography

His lyric tenor voice had a youthful glow, yet he sang with plaintive beauty and piercing insight. The New York Times

Precise vocal control, clear diction, intelligent musicality, and an ability to get to the heart of everything he sings all ensure Christoph Prégardien's place among the world's foremost lyric tenors. Especially revered as a Lieder singer, he kicks off the 2023/2024 season together with pianist Daniel Heide at the Schubertiada Vilabertran, before appearing at the Schubertiade Schwarzenberg/Hohenems in recitals with Julius Drake as well as with his long-time piano partner Michael Gees. Further concerts take him to Wolfsburg for a special Goethe program with Julius Drake and Udo Samel, to Hong Kong with Roger Vignoles, to Chapel Hill, USA, with Stefan Litwin, on tour in Japan with Michael Gees, and again to the Schubertiade Schwarzenberg and the Schwetzingen SWR Festival with Hartmut Höll, among others. In addition, he will perform Schubert arrangements with the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra under Dennis Russell Davies, as well as interpret Haydn's *Creation* in Madrid together with Kent Nagano and the Orquesta y Coro Nacionales de España.

Christoph Prégardien regularly appears with renowned orchestras the world over. He has worked with the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonics, Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, as well as the Boston and San Francisco Symphonies, alongside conductors such as Barenboim, Metzmacher, and Thielemann. His wide orchestral repertoire includes the great baroque, classical, and Romantic oratorios and passions, as well as works from the 17th and 20th centuries. In opera, his roles have included, among others, Tamino, Almagva (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), Fenton (*Falstaff*), Don Ottavio, Titus, Ulysses, and Idomeneus.

His extensive experience singing the Evangelist roles, together with his close working relationship with conductors such as Nagano, Chailly, Herreweghe, Harnoncourt, Luisi, and Gardiner, have provided the perfect base for his increasing dedication to conducting the works of Bach. Following the success of his conducting debut in 2012 leading Le Concert Lorrain and the Netherlands Kammerkoor, he now regularly conducts renowned ensembles like the Balthasar Neumann Choir, Dresdner Kammerchor, Collegium Vocale Gent, and RIAS Kammerchor. In the spring of 2024, he will take the podium for Bach's St. Matthew Passion with Vespers d'Arnadí and the Cor de Cambra del Palau in Barcelona.

The singer has recorded much of his repertoire on a discography of over 150 albums, which have received awards such as the Orphée d'Or of the Académie du Disque Lyrique, the Edison Award, the Cannes Classical Award, and the Diapason d'Or. For the label Challenge Classics, he has recorded Schubert's *Schwanengesang* with Andreas Staier and *Die schöne Müllerin* with Michael Gees, which was selected as Editor's Choice by Gramophone magazine and awarded the MIDEM Record of the Year. Shortly thereafter followed recordings of Hugo Wolf's *Italienisches Liederbuch* with Julia Kleiter, *Between Life and Death*, *Wanderer*, and the Grammy-nominated *Winterreise* disc – all with

Michael Gees – as well as *Father and Son* with his son Julian Prégardien. His Schubert CD *Poetisches Tagebuch* with Julius Drake was awarded the German Critics' Award 2016. His most recent releases include one recorded in collaboration with the Warsaw Chopin Institute with pianist Christoph Schnackertz featuring songs by Paderewski, Moniuszko and Duparc, and a new recording of Schubert's *Schwanengesang* and Schumann's *Liederkreis, Op. 39* (with Julius Drake). In the fall of 2023, the Etcetera label will release Bach cantatas recorded with Stephan Schultze and Le Concert Lorrain, featuring Christoph Prégardien as baritone.

Teaching remains an important part of Christoph Prégardien's musical life. Following many years at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Zürich, he gives masterclasses for young singers worldwide and since 2004 has been a professor at the Academy of Music in Cologne.

2023/2024 season

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