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## Martin Snell Bass

*Die Walküre (Hunding)* – Singapore Symphony Orchestra, May 2007

“As the villain, Snell owned the stage ... his deep voice thundering with menace ... the sheer calibre of the singing made for a thrilling aural experience.”

Stephanie Yap

*The Straits Times (Singapore)* May 15 2007

*La clemenza di Tito (Publio)* – Grand Théâtre de Genève, April 2006

“...and the New Zealand bass Martin Snell sang sonorously as *Publio*.”

Hugh Canning

*Opera (UK)*, September 2006

*Parsifal (Klingsor)* – New Zealand Symphony Orchestra/New Zealand Festival, March 2006

“Act II begins with Klingsor hurling his voice from the top of the stairs with *Die Zeit ist da*: Martin Snell’s attack after singing at Bayreuth is burnished and intensely focused; it electrified every scene in which he appeared, sombre and chilling.”

Lindis Taylor

*The Dominion Post (Wellington)* March 18 2006

New Zealand Bass Martin Snell was born and educated in Dunedin, New Zealand and entered the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, England to commence postgraduate vocal studies with Patrick McGuigan in September 1991, graduating with distinction in 1994. A recipient of many singing awards Martin Snell's successes include the 1993 MOBIL Song Quest, New Zealand's foremost singing competition, the inaugural RNCM Leslie & Dorothy Blond Award for young dramatic singers in 1994, and a scholarship from the Peter Moores Foundation, London.

In July 1995 Martin completed his full time vocal studies as a member of the International Opera Studio at Opernhaus Zürich, Switzerland, and continued his vocal studies privately with Kammersängerin Maria Sandulescu in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, again with assistance from the Peter Moores Foundation.

From 1995-1997 Martin Snell was a member of the Solo Ensemble of the Stadttheater St. Gallen, Switzerland, and from 1997-2001 was engaged as a soloist at Theater Basel, Switzerland. From 2001 until 2004 he was again engaged as a soloist at Theater St. Gallen. From autumn 2004 Martin Snell was engaged as a soloist at Luzerner Theater, Lucerne, Switzerland, where he continues to live, and now works as a freelance performer.

Martin Snell's vocal repertoire comprises diverse roles ranging from Monteverdi and Handel to Mozart and Rossini, Puccini and Strauss to Donizetti and Stravinsky, Verdi and Wagner, Janacek and Smetana, Tchaikovsky and Offenbach. Among his successes include stage performances as Prince Gremin *Eugene Onegin* for the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence 2002 conducted by Daniel Harding, Baron Ochs auf Lerchenau *Der Rosenkavalier*, Hunding *Die Walküre*, Timur *Turandot*, Figaro *Le nozze di Figaro*, Sarastro *Die Zauberflöte*, Rychtár *Jenufa* and Dikoj *Katja Kabanová*, and Prince Gremin *Eugene Onegin* in St. Gallen conducted by Jiri Kout, the Bass-Solo in a staging by Andreas Homoki of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* at Theater Basel conducted by Baldo Podic, Surin *Pique Dame* in a revival of the Royal Opera production staged by Francesca Zambello for the Grand Théâtre de Genève, Geneva, conducted by Marko Letonja, and a further production by Mariusz Trelinski for the Staatsoper unter den Linden, Berlin, conducted by Daniel Barenboim. Also at the Staatsoper Berlin Martin Snell sang the role of Angelotti *Tosca* conducted by Plácido Domingo. Additionally Martin Snell has performed Monterone *Rigoletto*, at the Herbert von Karajan Festspiele Baden-Baden 2004 conducted by Thomas Hengelbrock and a revival of the same Philippe Arlaud production for the Wuppertaler Bühnen conducted by Toshiyuki Kamioka. *Der Tod Kaiser von Atlantis* by Viktor Ullmann directed by Dominique Mentha as part of the Lucerne Festival 2004, Sparafucile *Rigoletto* directed by Vera Nemirova and Ned in Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha* in Lucerne directed by Verena Weiss.

Stage successes have featured Ein Steuermann *Tristan und Isolde* and Edler *Lohengrin* for the Bayreuther Festspiele 2005, Truffaldino *Ariadne auf Naxos* directed by Laurence Dale for Opéra de Monte-Carlo, and conducted by Lawrence Foster, Klingsor *Parsifal* for the New Zealand International Festival 2006 together with the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Publio *La Clemenza di Tito* in Geneva and Caen, Ein Steuermann *Tristan und Isolde* for the Bayreuther Festspiele 2006, Kanna in the world première performance of Franz Schubert's

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*Sakontala* at the Hermann Prey Festival Bad Urach, Hans Foltz *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* in Geneva, Truffaldino *Ariadne auf Naxos* in a revival of Christof Loy's Royal Opera production for the Grand Théâtre de Geneve conducted by Jeffery Tate, and Hermann Ortel *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* in Bayreuth, directed by Katharina Wagner and conducted by Sebastian Weigle. Most recently Martin Snell has received wide critical acclaim for his portrayal of the role of Kaspar in Carl Maria von Weber's *Der Freischütz* in a production by Marco Arturo Marelli for Oper Graz, Austria.

As a concert singer Martin Snell has appeared widely throughout Europe as well as Asia, and has also performed regularly in New Zealand, with conductors such as Peter Eötvös, Herbert Blomstedt, Philippe Herreweghe, David Parry, René Jacobs, Sebastian Weigle, Howard Griffiths, Jiri Kout, Jeffery Tate and Lan Shui, among many others.

Recent concert performances include Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in Graz, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* in Freiburg im Breisgau, Schumann's *Scenes from Goethe's Faust* in Valnecia, Verdi's *Requiem* in Freiburg, Basel and Zürich, *Hunding Die Walküre* in Singapore, and Franz Schmidt's *Das Buch mit sieben Siegeln* in Basel and Zürich.

Future engagements include Daland in *Der fliegende Holländer* for the State Opera of Prague followed by Hermann Ortel *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and Ein Steuermann *Tristan und Isolde* for the Bayreuther Festspiele 2008 as well as concert performances of *Elijah* in Lörrach, Mozart *Requiem*, Bach *Osteroratorium*, Dvorak *Te Deum* in Zürich, Jochanaan *Salome* with the Auckland Philharmonia, Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* with Orpheus Choir in Wellington, Beethoven *Symphony NO. 9*, *Chor Fantasie*, and *Die Ruinen von Athen* in Luzern, Verdi *Requiem* in Essen, and Mahler *Symphony No.8* in Riga.

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