

Biography 2024/2025

The Australian-born bass-baritone **Derek Welton** is recognised as one of the leading voices of his generation, with a repertoire ranging from Bach and Handel to the present day.

He is a regular guest of companies such as the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Salzburg Festival, Vienna State Opera, Bayreuth Festival, Bavarian State Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Semperoper Dresden, Hamburg State Opera, Paris Opera, Teatro Real Madrid, Dutch National Opera, and Lyric Opera of Chicago, in roles such as **Wotan/Wanderer** (*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), **Amfortas** and **Klingsor** (*Parsifal*), **King Marke** (*Tristan und Isolde*), **Orest** (*Elektra*), **Voland** (*Der Meister und Margarita*), **Bluebeard** (*Bluebeard's Castle*), **Pizarro** (*Fidelio*), **Forester** (*The Cunning Little Vixen*), **Prus** (*The Makropulos Case*), **Saint-Bris** (*Les Huguenots*), **Pandolfe** (*Cendrillon*) and Mozart's **Figaro**.

Derek has performed with orchestras such as the London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Academy of Ancient Music, Hallé Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic, Rotterdam Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Gewandhausorchester Leipzig and Concerto Köln in repertoire including Bach's *St Matthew Passion*, *St John Passion* and *Mass in B minor*, Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Creation*, Beethoven's *Symphony No 9*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Tippett's *A Child of our Time*.

Following his return to the Bayreuth Festival in 2024 as **Amfortas**, Welton's engagements for the 2024/2025 season include **Pizarro** at the Washington National Opera, **King Marke**, **Forester** and his début in the title role of *The Flying Dutchman* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, **Wanderer** (*Siegfried*) with Concerto Köln and the **Journalist** in Otto Ketting's *Ithaka* at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam. Concerts will include Mahler's *Symphony No 8* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and West Australian Symphony Orchestra, *Messiah* at the Vienna Musikverein, Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem* at the Rome Opera, Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* with the WDR Symphony Orchestra and Bruckner's *Mass in F minor* with the Vienna Symphony.

Derek Welton's discography includes performances as **Wotan** in *Das Rheingold* (Naxos), **Amfortas** in *Parsifal* (Deutsche Grammophon), **Orest** in *Elektra* (Unitel Edition), the **Herald** in *Lohengrin* (Deutsche Grammophon), **Creonte** in Haydn's *L'anima del filosofo* (Pinchgut Live), in Martinů's *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (Supraphon Records), Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* (Harmonia Mundi), Beethoven's *Symphony No 9* (Ondine and Brattle Media) and a solo CD of Vaughan Williams songs with Iain Burnside for Albion Records.

Derek Welton holds degrees in Linguistics and German from the University of Melbourne and in Music from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.