

GERRIT PRIESSNITZ

CONDUCTOR

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CURRENT

Tiroler Landestheater

Since 2024

Chief Conductor

Arts University Graz (KUG)

Since 2023

Professor of opera (musical interpretation and ensemble lessons)

'An unprecedented triumph', 'temperament, esprit and sensitivity', 'with verve, elegance and magnificent color', 'a musical tour de force' - Gerrit Priessnitz has received unanimous praise for his interpretations of the classical-romantic repertoire as well as for his conducting of contemporary music.

Born in Bonn, he is chief conductor of the Tiroler Landestheater Innsbruck and a sought-after guest conductor at various international orchestras and opera houses. His most recent debuts have included the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, the Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra and the Filharmonie Brno. In 2024, he conducted the Nuremberg State Philharmonic and the Bochum Symphony Orchestra for the first time.

After graduating with distinction from the Mozarteum University in Salzburg, he was initially engaged at the Erfurt Theater. He was then associated with the Volksoper Vienna in various roles from 2006 to 2023, where he conducted a wide-ranging repertoire from Mozart to Berlioz and Strauss to Henze, Trojahn and Glanert. In 2018/19, Gerrit Priessnitz was "First Permanent Guest Conductor" at the Chemnitz Theatre.

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

CD and DVD productions have been released with Sony Classical and Unitel, among others.

In 2023, Gerrit Priessnitz took up a professorship at the Institute for Music Theater at the University of Graz; since fall 2017, he had previously held a teaching position for opera at the Music and Arts Private University of the City of Vienna (MUK).

2024, Gerrit Priessnitz has been recipient of the Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art.

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REVIEWS

Detlev Glanert „Leyla und Medjnun“ Austrian Premiere Volksoper Vienna

“The best comes at the end! ... A veritable treasure ... Balm for the soul ... 4 ½ out of 5 stars”

16-06-2021, Peter Jarolin, Kurier

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart “Così fan tutte” University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (KUG)

“Mozart, freshly and virtuosically interpreted ... The Graz University of the Arts presents a successful version of “Così fan tutte” ... Gerrit Priessnitz finds a mixture of temperament, esprit and sensitivity in conducting the virtuoso orchestra.”

12-12-2023, Eva Schulz, Kleine Zeitung Graz

Richard Strauss “Josephslegende” Vienna State Opera

“Gerrit Priessnitz conducts the State Opera Orchestra with verve, elegance and splendid color.”

21-12-2017, Karlheinz Roschitz, Krone

Giacomo Puccini “La Bohème” Tiroler Landestheater Innsbruck

“Thunderous applause ... a musical peak performance”

20-11-2023, Franz Gratl, Krone

Paul Hindemith “Die Harmonie der Welt” Landestheater Linz

“The vivid, even in the dense passages always transparent performance by the Bruckner Orchestra Linz under the careful direction of Gerrit Priessnitz contributes decisively to the success of the over three-hour evening. Even the delicate scenes of the fanned-out choir never wobble.”

18-04-2017, Reinhard Kager, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

Peter Maxwell Davies “Mr Emmet takes a walk”/Giacomo Puccini “Suor Angelica” KUG

“Precisely and clearly he led through Peter Maxwell Davies' difficult score and he exactly hit the pulse and tone of Giacomo Puccini's subtle and colorful music. In the excellently disposed orchestra, one experienced richly shaded and atmospheric detail drawings, exciting tension and chattering vitality ... Great cheers!”

05-06-2023, Helmut Christian Mayer, Opera Online/ Kleine Zeitung Graz

Benjamin Britten “Death in Venice” Volksoper Vienna

“And then he lets the postlude flow with all the beauty of Mahlerian love-and-death fragility in the strings, as one has hardly ever heard it so beautiful, so tender and touching, so drunk with affection and tenderness. An evening in which everything was right down to the last detail - a great evening, an evening in which the Volksoper performed at a world-class level.”

16-05-2022, Edwin Baumgartner, Wiener Zeitung
