

## Christian Räch

Director

*Christian Räch tells the story with great skill, exactly how the composer set it...The interpersonal relationships are very well worked, not only do you hear the ambiguities and uncertainties, you see them*

Die Presse, Macbeth, Wiener Staatsoper

A native of Hamburg, director Christian Räch is renowned throughout Europe, Japan and the USA. His work takes him to many of the world's leading opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera New York, San Francisco Opera, Washington National Opera, The Dallas Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Saito Kinen Festival Matsumoto, Bregenzer Festspiele, Mariinsky Theatre St Petersburg, Opéra national de Paris, Opéra de Lyon, Teatro del Liceu Barcelona, Teatro alla Scala Milan, Wiener Staatsoper and the Royal Opera House London. He directs a large and diverse repertoire, ranging from Wagner, Strauss, Janáček, Puccini, Verdi, Donizetti, Mozart, Britten and Bartók to musicals and contemporary creations.

New productions in 2017-18 included *Der Freischütz* at the Wiener Staatsoper (now in repertoire) and *Le Baron Tzigane* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, as well as the direction and design of *Kiss Me Kate* for the Haut école de musique de Genève, in collaboration with the Haute école de musique de Lausanne, le Conservatorio dell Svizzera Italiana and the Théâtre du Galpon, Geneva. Other recent projects include *Macbeth* at the Wiener Staatsoper (currently in repertoire), and *L'Italiana in Algeri* in Portland. Plans include Korngold's *Das Wunder der Heliane* at the Bard Summerscape Festival as well as the creation of a new work for Opera Philadelphia.

Other work includes highly-acclaimed productions of Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* and the direction and design of *Tristan und Isolde* for The Dallas Opera, Verdi's rarely-performed comic opera *Un Giorno di Regno (King for a Day)* for the Glimmerglass Festival, *Falstaff* at Washington National Opera, *Roméo et Juliette* at Houston Grand Opera, *Fidelio*, *Luisa Miller* at The Dallas Opera, *Die Zauberflöte* at Cairo Opera House, *Carmen* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

Christian collaborates with several of the world's leading directors and regularly works alongside Laurent Pelly; he has been associate and revival director for many of his productions throughout the world, including *Viva la Mamma!*, *Le Coq d'Or*, *Le Roi Carotte*, *Le Comte Ory*, *La fille du régiment*, *Manon*, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, *La traviata*, *La vie parisienne*, *La Grande-Duchesse de Gérolstein* and *L'elisir d'amore*.

In 2014-15 Christian collaborated with Robert Carsen as associate director for Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame* at Opernhaus Zürich, a co-production with Opéra national du Rhin. Other work with Carsen includes *Il trovatore* in Bregenz, *Mitridate* for La Monnaie, Brussels, *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Deutsche Oper Berlin, Det Kongelige Teater Copenhagen and *JJR - Citoyen de Genève* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

Christian Räch is Senior Associate Director for Francesca Zambello's complete *Ring* for San Francisco Opera, a co-production with Washington National Opera, where it was revived in 2016. Other

productions with Zambello include *Billy Budd* (Opéra national de Paris, Royal Opera House, London) *Salome* (Saito Kinen), *West Side Story*, *Of Mice and Men* (Bregenz, Washington, Houston).

Christian R ath obtained a master's degree in Musiktheater-Regie from the Hochschule f ur Musik und Theater in Hamburg. He studied musicology, literature and psychology at the University of Hamburg, and participated in masterclasses on opera directing with Harry Kupfer. In 1995 he was invited to join the Grand Th  atre de Gen ve, where he held the position of Staff Director until 2001.