David Erler – Countertenor

Curriculum Vitae

David Erler (countertenor) is distinguished by the rare combination of a seasoned performer's instinct and an editor's meticulous engagement with musical sources. At the heart of his artistic work are those exceptional concert moments in which historical knowledge, informed musical practice and personal interpretation converge to create a vivid and immediate dialogue with the audience.

In demand as a concert soloist throughout Europe, David Erler has established a particular affinity with the music of the Baroque. His repertoire, however, reaches far beyond the period, extending from the vocal polyphony of the Renaissance to contemporary music and encompassing numerous world premieres.

His artistic path has been shaped by longstanding collaborations with distinguished conductors including Manfred Cordes, Laurence Cummings, Philippe Herreweghe, Peter Van Heyghen, Jos van Immerseel, Wolfgang Katschner, Ton Koopman, Rudolf Lutz, Hermann Max, Gregor Meyer, Peter Neumann, Hans-Christoph Rademann, Ludger Rémy, Gotthold Schwarz, Jos van Veldhoven, Adam Viktora and Roland Wilson. Among his regular artistic partners are such ensembles as Bell'Arte Salzburg, Collegium Marianum Prague, Ensemble Inégal, Gesualdo Consort Amsterdam, Il Gardellino, Lautten Compagney Berlin, Les Muffatti Brussels, Musica Fiata, the Nederlandse Bachvereniging and Weser-Renaissance Bremen. His stylistic versatility and extensive ensemble experience have likewise led to repeated invitations from leading vocal ensembles including amarcord, Calmus Ensemble, Singer Pur, Singphoniker and Stimmwerck.

A central focus of his work is the rich and multifaceted vocal tradition of Baroque Germany. Alongside the established canon, he is particularly committed to bringing neglected composers and forgotten works back into the light. His two solo recordings, *Psalmen und Lobgesänge des mitteldeutschen Barock* (*Christophorus*) and *Weihnachten bei Freylinghausen* (*Rondeau*), reflect this enduring interest. His extensive discography now comprises more than 100 releases, including numerous first recordings. Among the highlights are his participation in Hans-Christoph Rademann's complete recording of the works of Heinrich Schütz (*Carus*), as well as the complete recording of Johann Kuhnau's vocal works under Gregor Meyer (*cpo*), an ambitious project he himself helped initiate.

For David Erler, musical engagement does not end with performance. His artistic practice is closely intertwined with a passionate and sustained study of historical sources. As an editor and proofreader, he works to restore manuscripts and early printed editions to practical relevance, making them accessible to performers and audiences of the present day. For Breitkopf & Härtel, he serves as editor of Johann Kuhnau's cantatas; the series presents the composer's complete surviving vocal works at regular intervals, most of them published for the first time. He has also prepared new editions of Jan Dismas Zelenka's *Requiem* (ZWV 46), Johann Sebastian Bach's *Magnificat* (BWV 243), including his own reconstruction of the movement *Virga Jesse*, and Bach's *Easter Oratorio* (BWV 249). Further editorial projects are in preparation, alongside the development of his own publishing house, *Alnus Edition Leipzig*.

This sustained dialogue with historical sources increasingly extends into the field of musicology. David Erler contributes to scholarly symposia and publishes articles for specialist journals, programme books and CD booklets, bringing together the perspectives of performer, researcher and editor.

Born in the Vogtland region of Saxony, David Erler studied voice at the University of Music and Theatre "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy" Leipzig, initially with Maria Jonas and later with Marek Rzepka, whose teaching was to become particularly formative. As a scholarship holder, he was supported by the Hanns Seidel Foundation in Munich. Following his degree, he continued his studies in music theory. Further important artistic impulses came from masterclasses with Andreas Scholl, Marius van Altena and the King's Singers.

www.daviderler.de