Stephen Milling

Bass

Danish bass Stephen Milling ranks among the world’s foremost interpreters of Wagner's repertoire.  Known for a strong association with the role of Hagen since his critically acclaimed 2015 role debut at the Bayreuth Festival under Kirill Petrenko, his performance last season in the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden’s Ring Cycle was hailed by audience and critics alike, the Financial Times writing “Stephen Milling is outstanding as Hagen, singing with huge power, but also scrupulous in his care for the text and phrasing.”

Other recent Wagner highlights include Hunding (*Die Walküre*) at The Metropolitan Opera and in concert with the London Philharmonic Orchestra under Vladimir Jurowski, Daland (*Der fliegende Holländer*) at Bayerische Staatsoper and König Marke (*Tristan und Isolde*) at the Staatsoper Unter den Linden under the baton of Daniel Barenboim.  He has performed the role of Gurnemanz (*Parsifal)* at both Wiener Staatsoper under Sir Simon Rattle and at Osterfestspiele Salzburg under Christian Thielemann, as well as being immortalised in the role on DVD for Deutsche Grammophon.  As a regular guest on the stage of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, other recent performances in collaboration with Sir Antonio Pappano include Landgraf Hermann (*Tannhäuser*) and Pogner (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*).

In the 2019/20 season Milling returns to Dutch National Opera as Hunding under Marc Albrecht and to the Bayreuth Festival as Hermann.  At home in Denmark he sings Act I of *Die Walküre* in concert with the Danish National Symphony Orchestra under Fabio Luisi and in the USA he appears as both Hunding and Hagen in the Lyric Opera of Chicago’s new Ring Cycle under the baton of Sir Andrew Davis.

Keen to maintain a broad and diverse repertoire, Stephen Milling's other roles feature Philip II (*Don Carlos*) at San Francisco Opera, Rocco (*Fidelio*) at Teatro alla Scala and Gran Teatre del Liceu, Padre Guardiano (*La forza del destino*) at Semperoper Dresden and Palau de les Artes Reina Sofia in Valencia, Kaija Saariaho’s *Adriana Mater* at Opéra national de Paris, Sparafucile (*Rigoletto)* at The Met, and *Sarastro* *(Die Zauberflöte)* at Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Bayerische Staatsoper and Wiener Staatsoper.

Trained at the Royal Danish Academy of Music, Stephen Milling joined the Royal Danish Opera in 1994 where he debuted a number of roles now central to his repertoire and recent guest appearances in Copenhagen include Daland and Sarastro. International debuts at Teatro alla Scala as Don Fernando (*Fidelio)*and as both Fasolt and Hunding in The Seattle Opera’s *Ring Cycle* paved an early way to today’s thriving global career.

Stephen Milling made his debut with Berliner Philharmoniker in Verdi’s *Messa da Requiem* under Mariss Jansons, and features on several CDs including *Les Troyens* with London Symphony Orchestra (Sir Colin Davis). On DVD he stars in *Der Ring des Nibelungen* staged by La Fura dels Baus in Valencia, in three collaborations with Kasper Holten at the Royal Danish Opera: *The Copenhagen Ring*, *Tannhäuser,* *Maskarade;* and most recently in *Der Freischütz* at Teatro alla Scala.