

Frank van Aken, Heldentenor (NED)

Dutch tenor Frank van Aken has established himself as a sought-after international tenor. He studied in Utrecht and is a music graduate of the Opera Studio of the Royal Conservatory in The Hague. He completed his vocal studies with James McCray. He made his professional debut as Macduff in *Macbeth* at the Nederlandse Reisopera in Enschede, followed by his debut in Rome as *Cavaradossi* in *Tosca*. Being a fest member of the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Duesseldorf he added dozens of important roles to his repertoire, f.ex. *Lohengrin*, *Florestan*, *Stolz*, *Bacchus* in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Siegmond* and *Parsifal*. He was invited by Comic Opera Berlin, Theater Dortmund and Staatstheater Karlsruhe. He performed *Parsifal* in Strasbourg, *Aegisth* in *Elektra*, *Laca* in *Jenufa* and *Erik* in *The Flying Dutchman* at Stuttgart State Opera. It was at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, where Frank van Aken sang *Max* in *Der Freischütz*. At Frankfurt Opera, where he was a fest member, Frank van Aken appeared as *Tannhäuser*, *Hermann* in *Pique Dame*, *Luigi* in *Il tabarro*, *Parsifal* and *Tristan* in *Tristan und Isolde*. Some of the most renowned performances in Frankfurt have been his roles as *Einsiedel* in Hartmann's *Simplicius Simplicissimus* and as *Siegmond* in *Die Walküre*. In season 2010/2011, he made his Vienna State Opera debut as *Tannhäuser* and performed the same role for his debuts at the Bayreuth Festival, at the Gran Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona and at the Festspielhaus Baden Baden. He subsequently debuted at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan as *Siegmond* in *Die Walküre* and at the Teatro Regio in Turin in the title role of *Parsifal*. In spring of 2012 Frank van Aken had to jump in the Metropolitan Opera as *Siegmond* and made an overwhelming debut. Furthermore, he received highest praise for his interpretation of Russian repertoire as for his *Alexej* in Prokofiev's *The Gambler* in Frankfurt. In the Italian repertoire, he has performed *Otello* at the Oper Graz and in Frankfurt, followed here by *Mauricio* in *Adriana Lecouvreur*. Frank van Aken has been happy to work with famous conductors such as Kiril Petrenko, Daniel Barenboim, Lawrence Foster, Alexander Soddy, Christian Thielemann, Franz Welser-Möst, Sebastian Weigle, Rani Calderon and Stefan Soltesz. Past engagements include among others his critically praised debut at Semperoper Dresden as *Tristan* in *Tristan and Isolde* and the title role in Strauss' *Guntram*. He returned to Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona to perform *Siegmond* in *Die Walküre* and appeared as *Sergei* in *Lady Macbeth of Mzensk* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York in November 2014. In spring 2015 he performed *Parsifal* in Frankfurt. In season 16/17 Frank van Aken performed *Alexej* in the reprise of *The Gambler* at Frankfurt Opera and *Tambourmajor* in *Wozzeck* at De Nationale Opera in Amsterdam. In season 17/18 guest appearances will take him as *Egist* in *Elektra* to the Greek National Opera in Athens and as *Tannhäuser* to Nationaltheater Mannheim. Furthermore, he will appear as a concert singer in 8. *Mahler* with the Philips Symfonie Orkest in Utrecht, in Concertgebouw Amsterdam and in Eindhoven.