



The tenor **MARTIN PETZOLD** received his first musical training as a member of the St. Thomas Boys Choir in his hometown of Leipzig. He went on to study at the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Conservatory of Music and Theater. Since 1986 he has been a fixed member of the ensemble of the Leipzig Opera, where he has performed over 80 roles to great acclaim. In addition to his work in the opera, Martin Petzold maintains a close working relationship with the St. Thomas Boys Choir and the Gewandhaus Orchestra. Numerous concert performances have led him throughout Europe, the USA, to Israel, Japan, Korea, China and Central and South America. His interpretations of the works of Johann Sebastian Bach, in particular, have not only received worldwide recognition but have served as the focal point of his music making. The opera, oratorio and concert singer has a wide repertoire that includes the works of composers spanning all musical genres. Martin Petzold has been greatly influenced by his engagements with such renowned conductors as Georg Christoph Biller, Riccardo Chailly, Enoch zu Guttenberg, Ton Koopman, Kurt Masur, Yehudi Menuhin, Kent Nagano, Helmuth Rilling, Ulf Schirmer, and Peter Schreier among others. He is a much welcomed guest at many European opera houses including the Opera Theatre in Basel, where he repeatedly worked together with director Herbert Wernicke. In addition, he has performed at the Semper Opera in Dresden, the Hamburg State Opera, Opera Messina Sicily, Royal Opera House Lisbon, Royal Opera Madrid, and for many years at the Stuttgart State Opera. As a concert singer as well as recitalist, he has made lasting impressions in the world's music centers including in Leipzig's Gewandhaus, the Berlin Philharmonic, Cologne Philharmonic, Stuttgart Liederhalle, Gasteig Munich, Hamburg Laeiszhalle, Tonhalle Zurich, Vienna Musikverein, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Palau Musica Catalana in Barcelona, at the Edinburgh Festival Theater, as well as in Milan, Rome, Seoul, New York, Chicago, Sao Paolo, Curitiba, Porto Alegre, and San Jose in Costa Rica among many others. Numerous radio, TV, CD and DVD productions document Martin Petzold's extensive musical career. Among others, these include the part of the evangelist in Bach's "St. Matthew Passion" with the St. Thomas Boy's Choir in the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Monastatos in "The Magic Flute" under Arnold Oestmann at L'Orseau de Lyre and "Das Wunder der Heliane" by Erich Wolfgang Korngold to name a few. In addition, he played a leading role in the DECCA series "Entarte Musik" with Lothar Zagrossek and John Mauceri. Martin Petzold has recorded CD's for Philips Classics, DECCA, Ram Records, for Japanese labels as well as for Apollon Classics, Rondeau, Querstand and Bavaria Sonor. For many years, he has been sharing his vast experience with young singers in masterclasses. In 2001, he was appointed "Kammersaenger," a title awarded to a singer of outstanding merit. In December 2012, the feature film production of 'Ludwig II' was premiered, with Martin Petzold as the old 'Lohengrin'. With their recent 'Bach in Jazz', the strict classical singer and the improvising instrumentalists of the Stephan-König-Trio have paved a new way to the music of Bach. The vocal experiment has enjoyed both national and international praise and attention. Furthermore, the preservation of German folk music has always been one of Martin Petzold's great personal priorities and therefore, in 2009 he released the highly acclaimed CD "Verstohlen geht der Mond auf," and then in 2014, a collection of German Christmas Carols 'Weinachten zu Hause' with guitar accompaniment. As an illustrator and caricaturist, Martin Petzold's work has been commissioned by such publishing houses as the Mabuse-Verlag in Frankfurt am Main, C.F. Mueller Verlag in Heidelberg, Evangelische Verlagsanstalt/Leipzig, Phonus Verlag/Leipzig and Kamprad Verlag/Altenburg.