



## VITALIJ KOWALJOW – Bass

Praised for the depth and richness of his voice, Vitalij Kowaljow has established himself in recent years as one of the leading basses in the opera scene. Among his more than 40 performed roles are Verdi's Filippo II in *Don Carlo*, Fiesco in *Simon Boccanegra*, Zaccaria in *Nabucco*, Banco in *Macbeth*, Ramphis in *Aida*, Barbarossa in *La Battaglia di Legnano*, Procida in *Vespri Siciliani*, Padre Guardiano in *La Forza del Destino*, Walter in *Luisa Miller* and the title-role of *Attila*. Moreover, he has appeared as Wotan and Der Wanderer in Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, Sarastro in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Russian language roles as Prince Igor, Pimen in *Boris Godunov* and Prince Gremin in *Eugene Onegin*.

Vitalij Kowaljow was introduced to the USA by the Opera Orchestra of New York as Baldassare in *La Favorita* and has sung since then at Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco, Washington Opera, Los Angeles, Chicago and Philadelphia Opera Companies. He has collaborated with various European companies including Royal Opera House in London, Opéra National de Paris, Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, Wiener Staatsoper, Teatro alla Scala, Arena di Verona and Semperoper Dresden. He made the news when he stepped in at 10 days notice at the Bastille Opera in Paris for an ailing colleague, singing Procida in the new production of the original and seldom performed French version of *Les Vêpres Siciliennes* under the baton of James Conlon.

In 2010 he debuted to great acclaim the roles of Wotan and Der Wanderer in the Los Angeles Opera new production of Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, conducted by James Conlon and staged by Achim Freyer. The success of his performance led to an invitation from Daniel Barenboim to reprise the role in *Die Walküre* for the season opening at La Scala in 2011.

Recent highlights of Vitalij Kowaljow's career include *Die Walküre* and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at the Easter Festival Salzburg under the baton of Christian Thielemann, *Der Ring des Nibelungen* at Mariinsky Theatre St Petersburg, conducted by Valerij Gergiev and Semperoper Dresden, conducted by Christian Thielemann, *Evgeny Onegin* at Lyric Opera of Chicago, *Nabucco* at La Scala, Arena di Verona, Bayerische Staatsoper Munich, Deutsche Oper Berlin and at ROH London, *Simon Boccanegra* at Bayerische Staatsoper, San Francisco Opera, Konzerthaus Wien, in Monte-Carlo and at Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* with Anna Netrebko and Piotr Beczala in Slovenia, Germany, Netherlands, France and Austria, *Lucrezia Borgia* in San Francisco, *I Puritani* at Wiener Staatsoper, *Roméo et Juliette* at ROH London and at Los Angeles Opera, *Aida* at La Scala Milan, at Metropolitan New York, at Arena di Verona and ROH London, *Macbeth* in Washington, in Turin conducted by Gianandrea Noseda and at Liceu Barcelona. He also sung the role of Filippo II in *Don Carlo* at New National Theatre Tokyo, Pimen in *Boris Godunov* in San Diego and in San Francisco, Conte Walter in *Luisa Miller* at La Scala, Padre Guardiano in *La forza del destino* at Opera Amsterdam, at Liceu Barcelona and at Semperoper Dresden, Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Metropolitan New York.

Vitalij Kowaljow's recordings include *La bohème* (Deutsche Grammophon 2008), Leoncavallo's *I Medici* (Deutsche Grammophon 2010) and *Don Giovanni* (Deutsche Grammophon 2012). He also stars as Colline in a feature film release of Puccini's *La bohème*, directed by Oscar- and Emmy- nominated director Robert Dornhelm.

**LATEST PERFORMANCES:** *Evgeny Onegin* at Opernhaus Zurich; *Aida* at Semperoper Dresden; *Ernani* at Maggio Musicale Fiorentino; *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Macbeth* at Opernhaus Zurich; *Boris Godunov* at Vienna State Opera; Shostakovich's *Symphony n. 14* with London Symphony Orchestra; *Turandot* at Opéra National de Paris; *Don Carlo* at Semperoper Dresden; Tchaikovsky's *Mazeppa* with Berliner Philharmoniker conducted by Kirill Petrenko; *Ernani* in Sydney with Opera Australia; *Nabucco* at Semperoper Dresden and in Zürich; *Médée* at Salzburg Festival; *Iolanta* in Valencia and at Metropolitan New York.

**FORTHCOMING PROJECTS:** *Turandot* at ROH Covent Garden London; *Die Zauberflöte* and *Macbeth* in Zurich; *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* in Dresden; *Boris Godunov* in Munich and in Hamburg; *Nabucco* at Odeon of Herodes Atticus in Athens; *La Gioconda* in Sydney; *Turandot* at Metropolitan and at Teatro alla Scala; *Aida* in Munich.

*Last update: March 2023, please do not use any previous version.*

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