Brett *Sprague*

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Biography

American-German tenor Brett Sprague has emerged as a compelling and distinctive presence on the international stage, an artist whose work sits at the intersection of lyrical refinement and dramatic power. Praised for his fearless dramatic instinct, psychological depth, and extraordinary stamina, he shapes characters from the inside out with a rigorous textual intelligence that matches his vocal command. For Mr. Sprague, the stage knows no compromise.

The 2026/27 season marks his arrival on the international stage as a freelance artist, after several years of development in German ensembles. It begins with role debuts as Erik in *Der fliegende Holländer* and Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus* at the Hessisches Staatstheater Kassel, and continues with a return to Luzerner Theater as Erik in a second new production of *Der fliegende Holländer*. The watershed moment of the season is his title role debut as Siegfried at the Opéra de Monte-Carlo. Concert engagements include Britten's *War Requiem* and *Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings* with Phil Zuid in the Netherlands, *Carmina Burana* with the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, Liszt's *A Faust Symphony* with Theater Orchester Biel Solothurn, and Beethoven's *9th Symphony* with the London Mozart Players at Fairfield Halls.

Critics hailed his Peter Grimes at Luzerner Theater, performed as part of the Lucerne Festival, as “a flawless combination of dramatic force and tenor lyricism of ravishing beauty,” praising his “boundless vocal resources and commanding presence” and calling him “an artist of the highest caliber.” Other major guest credits include the title role in *Les contes d'Hoffmann* at Semperoper Dresden, Loge in *Das Rheingold* at the Croatian National Theater Rijeka, and Lord Barrat in Henze's *Der junge Lord* at Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz in Munich.

From 2024 to 2026, Mr. Sprague was a principal ensemble member at Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, where he sang Mark in Ethel Smyth's *The Wreckers* under director Keith Warner, a performance that drew critical comparisons to the demands of Wagner's Tristan. His subsequent roles included Lensky in *Eugene Onegin*, the title role in Lili Boulanger's *Faust et Hélène*, Chevalier de La Force in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, and Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. At Theater Erfurt (2019 - 2024), he portrayed the title roles in *Peter Grimes*, *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, and Weingartner's *Orestes*, a performance praised for “Siegfried-level stamina and dramatic command,” as well as Loge in *Das Rheingold* and Ismaele in *Nabucco*, among others.

Since beginning his career in Europe in 2019, Mr. Sprague has built his reputation in concert repertoire as well as opera. He has sung *Carmina Burana* with the National Philharmonic of Poland, Göteborgs Symfoniker, Tampere Filharmonia, and Oslo Philharmonic, all under Santtu-Matias Rouvali, and has been acclaimed for Verdi's *Requiem*, Rossini's *Petite messe solennelle*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, and his recital work.

Before relocating to Europe, Mr. Sprague premiered roles in contemporary works with Indianapolis Opera, Opera Colorado, and OnSite Opera New York, and sang Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* and Don José in *Carmen*, among others, with resident artist engagements at Opera Colorado and Chautauqua Opera. He holds a Masters of Music from the Manhattan School of Music and a Bachelors of Music from Chapman University, and his honours include awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the Seattle Opera Guild, and the Joan Taub Ades Vocal Competition.