

KANTTILA MANAGEMENT

ARTIST
DOSSIER

BIOGRAPHY • CV

Brett Sprague

Heldentenor

Biography

Brett Sprague



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 is an artist who shapes characters from the inside out, brought to life with a rigorous textual intelligence that matches his vocal command. For Mr. Sprague, the stage knows no compromise.

The 2026/2027 season marks his arrival on the international stage as a freelance artist, after several years of development in ensembles in Germany. His season begins with role debuts as Erik in *Der fliegende Holländer* and Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus* at the Hessisches Staatstheater Kassel. He continues to expand his reach in Europe as the tenor soloist in Britten's *War Requiem* with Phil Zuid in the Netherlands and returns to the Luzerner Theater for a second new production as Erik. The watershed moment of the season is his debut as Siegfried in the new *Siegfried* production at Opéra de Monte Carlo. He also sings Britten's *Serenade for Strings, Horn, and Tenor* with Phil Zuid and the Lizst *Faust Symphony* with the Biel Solothurn Symphony. Previous major guest artist credits include the title role in *Les contes d'Hoffmann* at Semperoper Dresden, *Peter Grimes* at the Lucerne Festival/Luzerner Theater, Loge in *Das Rheingold* at the Croatian National Theater Rijeka, and Lord Barrat in Henze's *Der junge Lord* at Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz.

From 2024–2026, Mr. Sprague was in the ensemble at Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, performing Mark in Ethel Smyth's *The Wreckers* under director Keith Warner. His subsequent roles included Lensky in *Eugene Onegin* and Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, among others. During his tenure at Theater Erfurt (2019–2024), Mr. Sprague portrayed the title roles in *Peter Grimes*, *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, and Weingartner's *Orestes*, as well as the roles of Loge in *Das Rheingold* and Ismaele in *Nabucco*, among others.

Since beginning his career in Europe in 2019, Mr. Sprague has expanded his reputation in both opera and concert repertoire. Recent concert highlights include *Carmina Burana* with orchestras such as the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Poland, Göteborgs Symfoniker, Tampere Filharmonia, Oslo Filharmonia, with an upcoming concert with the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, all led by Santtu-Matias Rouvali. He has also received acclaim for his performances of Verdi's *Requiem*, Rossini's *Petite messe solennelle*, and Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, as well as his recital work.

Prior to his European engagements, Mr. Sprague built a notable presence in American opera, premiering roles in contemporary works with Indianapolis Opera, Opera Colorado, and OnSite Opera New York, among others. His formative years included roles such as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Don José in *Carmen*, and resident artist engagements with Opera Colorado and Chautauqua Opera. Mr. Sprague holds a Master's degree from Manhattan School of Music and a Bachelor's from Chapman University. His accomplishments include awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Seattle Opera Guild, and the Joan Taub Ades Vocal Competition.

Curriculum vitae

Brett Sprague

HELDENTENOR

NATIONALITY United States · Germany

LANGUAGES English · German

BASED IN Karlsruhe, Germany

FORMER ENSEMBLE

2024–2026 Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe

2019–2024 Theater Erfurt



SELECTED HOUSES AND FESTIVALS

Semperoper Dresden · Opéra de Monte Carlo · Lucerne Festival / Luzerner Theater · Hessisches Staatstheater Kassel · Croatian National Theatre Rijeka

Forthcoming and 2026 engagements

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Siegfried	Siegfried <i>Wagner</i>	Opéra de Monte Carlo	2027
Erik	Der fliegende Holländer <i>Wagner</i>	Luzerner Theater Hessisches Staatstheater Kassel	2027 2026
Mark	The Wreckers <i>Smyth</i>	Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe	2026 · 2024
Eisenstein	Die Fledermaus <i>J. Strauss II</i>	Hessisches Staatstheater Kassel	2026
Lysander	A Midsummer Night's Dream <i>Britten</i>	Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe	2026
Lensky	Eugene Onegin <i>Tchaikovsky</i>	Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe	2026
Chevalier de La Force	Dialogues des Carmélites <i>Poulenc</i>	Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe	2026
Peter Grimes	Peter Grimes <i>Britten</i>	Lucerne Festival Luzerner Theater Theater Erfurt	2025 2025 2023

Opera engagements

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Ferrando	Così fan tutte <i>Mozart</i>	Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe	2025
Alfred	Die Fledermaus <i>J. Strauss II</i>	Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe	2024
Loge	Das Rheingold <i>Wagner</i>	Croatian National Theatre Rijeka Theater Erfurt	2024 2024
Hoffmann	Les contes d'Hoffmann <i>Offenbach</i>	Semperoper Dresden Theater Erfurt	2023 2022
Orestes	Orestes <i>Weingartner</i>	Theater Erfurt	2023
Néoclès	Le siège de Corinthe <i>Rossini</i>	Theater Erfurt	2023
Nicholas Gage	Eleni <i>Taylor · World premiere</i>	Theater Erfurt	2022
Ismaele	Nabucco <i>Verdi</i>	DomStufen-Festspiele	2022
Visitor	In the Penal Colony <i>Glass</i>	Theater Erfurt	2021
King Charles VII	Orleanskaya deva <i>Tchaikovsky</i>	DomStufen-Festspiele	2021



Opera engagements

Selected

ROLE	WORK / COMPOSER	THEATRE / FESTIVAL	YEAR
Hexe	Hänsel und Gretel <i>Humperdinck</i>	Theater Erfurt	2019
Prinz Gwidon	Das Märchen vom Zaren Saltan <i>Rimsky-Korsakov</i>	Theater Erfurt	2019
Pedrillo	Die Entführung aus dem Serail <i>Mozart</i>	Thüringer Schlossfestspiele	2019
Lord Barrat	Der junge Lord <i>Henze</i>	Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz	2019
Arturo	Lucia di Lammermoor <i>Donizetti</i>	Opera Colorado	2017
Malcolm	Macbeth <i>Verdi</i>	Chautauqua Opera	2015
Tamino	Die Zauberflöte <i>Mozart</i>	Opera Colorado	2015
Don José	Carmen <i>Bizet</i>	Opera Colorado	2014



CURRICULUM VITAE

Education & distinctions

2012 Master of Music · Classical Voice
Manhattan School of Music · with Mark Oswald

2010 Bachelor of Music · Vocal Performance
Chapman University Conservatory of Music · with Patrick Goesser

Masterclasses

2018-19 Kalle Kanttila
Bavarian Opera Academy

2012 Marilyn Horne
Manhattan School of Music

2010 Linda Watson
Chapman University Conservatory of Music

Awards & competitions

2018 Seattle Opera Guild Competition
1st Place · Seattle Opera

2016 CareerBridges Competition
Winner · Schuyler Foundation for Career Bridges

2016 Anita Cerquetti Competition
4th Place · Montecosaro, Italy

2015 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions
3rd Place · Rocky Mountain Region

2012 Joan Taub Ades Vocal Competition
2nd Place · Manhattan School of Music
