KANTTILA MANAGEMENT



ARTIST
DOSSIER

BIOGRAPHY · CV

Brett Sprague

Heldentenor

Biography

Brett Sprague



American-German heldentenor Brett Sprague begins a freelance career in the 2026/27 season after ensemble engagements in Karlsruhe and Erfurt. Wagner and Britten have been recurring points of reference in his work, from Loge and Peter Grimes to the roles that shape this new period. His season's engagements include role debuts as Erik in *Der fliegende Holländer* and Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus* at Staatstheater Kassel, followed by a return to the Luzerner Theater as Erik in 2027. He is also scheduled to make his debut as Siegfried at Opéra de Monte-Carlo in 2027.

Mr. Sprague's guest engagements include the title role in *Les contes d'Hoffmann* at the Semperoper Dresden, Peter Grimes at the Lucerne Festival and Luzerner Theater, Loge in *Das Rheingold* at the Croatian National Theatre Rijeka, and Lord Barrat in Henze's *Der junge Lord* at the Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz. Britten also figures prominently in his concert work: he sang the *War Requiem* with Phil Zuid in October 2026 and is scheduled to return for the *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings* in May 2027. Liszt's *Faust Symphony* with the Biel Solothurn Symphony Orchestra follows in June 2027.

From 2024 to 2026, Mr. Sprague was a member of the Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe ensemble, where his repertoire included Mark in Ethel Smyth's *The Wreckers*, directed by Keith Warner, alongside Lensky in *Eugene Onegin*, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the Chevalier de la Force in *Dialogues des Carmélites*. During his engagement at Theater Erfurt from 2019 to 2024, he portrayed the title roles in *Peter Grimes*, *Les contes d'Hoffmann* and Weingartner's *Orestes*, as well as Loge and Ismaele in *Nabucco*. In 2022 he created Nicholas Gage in the world premiere of Taylor's *Eleni* at the theatre.

His concert work has brought a continuing collaboration with Santtu-Matias Rouvali, under whom he has sung *Carmina Burana* with the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Poland, Göteborgs Symfoniker, Tampere Filharmonia and Oslo Filharmonia. A further engagement in the work with the Philharmonia Orchestra in London is scheduled for June 2027. His concert repertoire encompasses Verdi's *Requiem*, Rossini's *Petite messe solennelle* and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, alongside song recitals.

Before moving to Europe in 2019, Mr. Sprague created roles in contemporary works with Indianapolis Opera, Opera Colorado and OnSite Opera New York. His early career included Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Don José in *Carmen* and resident artist engagements with Opera Colorado and Chautauqua Opera. He holds a master's degree from Manhattan School of Music and a bachelor's degree from Chapman University. His distinctions include awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Seattle Opera Guild and 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

Opera Engagements

Selected

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

Opera Engagements

Selected

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

Opera Engagements

Selected

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

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