

BIOGRAPHIES STEVEN BROOKS, ANJA VAN ENGELAND, KAMIL BEN HSAIN LACHIRI

Steven Brooks began his musical studies at the Lemmensinstituut in Leuven (Belgium). He then continued his studies of singing, opera and composition at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels where he won the first prizes Elkan and De Keyzer for Singing.

After his studies he worked as principal Tenor and soloist of the Flemish Radio Choir for many concerts and recordings, and guest tenor for well distinguished ensembles such as the *Huelgas Ensemble* and *Capilla Flamenca*.

After moving to the United Kingdom in 2002, he created the role of Don Jose in the new adaptation of Carmen for Syrnix Opera. He joined the vocal group 'Cantabile - The London Quartet' in 2005. In the ten years of being part of this ensemble he has been giving numerous concerts worldwide, bringing a wide variety of musical styles to variegated audiences. Alongside his work with TLQ he performed as a soloist in many operas, masses and oratorio.

Currently he teaches singing at Christ's Hospital School. When not performing, you can find him behind the piano at Millennium Performing Arts, English National Ballet School and the Royal Ballet School.

In December 2015 he was invited by Frascati Symphonic to join their tour through China and he is delighted to be able to join forces once again, this time for the Opera 'Fausto'.

Anja Van Engeland (Margherita, soprano)

Anja Van Engeland studied at the Lemmensinstute in Leuven graduating with the highest distinction and then specialized at the Conservatory in Antwerp and at the Opera Studio Vlaanderen. She followed masterclasses with Helmut Deutsch, Mary Brennan, Robert Alderson, Suzanne Eken, Gemma Visser, et al. After a successful performance at the Belvédère-Concours in Vienna she received opera-coaching and started her opera career. She sang Sophie Scholl (Die Weisse Rose/Udo Zimmerman), Leïla (les Pecheurs de Perles/Bizet), Elvira (I Puritani/Bellini) Eerste Dame en Eerste Knaap (Der Zauberflöte/Mozart), Mimi (la Boheme/Puccini), Elvire (la Muette de Portici/Auber), Aennchen (Freischutz/Weber), Ophelia (Hamlet/Thomas)

In the Opéra Royal de Wallonie she sang in 2014 Constance (Enlèvement au Sérail/W.A.Mozart) and 2010/2011 Micaela (Carmen). In concertante performances she sang Tosca in 2014 in the Netherlands and in 2011 she sang Magd 4 in Elektra van R. Strauss. In Opera South (Maastricht) she sang Alicia Ford (Falstaff/ Verdi) en Marguerite (Faust/Gounod) as well as Queen of the Night (Die Zauberflöte/W.A.Mozart). In the Flemish Opera she sang Nicolette (L'Amour des trois Oranges/Prokofiev), Laura (Louisa Miller/Verdi), Ygraine (Barbe-bleu/Dukas) Berta (il barbiere di Siviglia/Rossini), Koningin van de nacht (Toverfluitproductie voor

jongeren), Tweede viool (Prova d`orchestra/Battistelli), Freia (Das Rheingold), Gerhilde (Der Walküre, 2007) en Female Chorus (The Rape of Lucretia van Benjamin Britten, 2008).

Anja van Engeland is also in high demand as a concert singer. Together with the Symphonic Orchestra of Flanders directed by David Angus she sang **Nursery Songs** by Piet Swerts. In the context of the Mozart year she sang Mozart's **Missa in c sharp** in Bozar in Brussels as well as the **Sea-Symphony** by R.V. Williams and the **Requiem** by Verdi. She performed with the Belgian National Orchestra directed by Theodor Guschlbauer in Beethoven's 9th. She sang with the Symphonic orchestra of Flanders in a Rossini program. In 2012/13 she sang Verdi's **Requiem** van **Verdi** with different orchestras and with the Brussels Philharmonic she sang Debussy's **l'Enfant prodigue** en **Le Gladiateur**. With the Philharmonic orchestra of Luxembourg she recorded **Der Geiger von Echternach** by Lou Koster. From 2015 she forms the song-duo "TastiVoce" with pianist Toon Spaepen.