

The German bass Dirk Schmidt began his musical education when he was eight singing in the Cathedral choir of his hometown Magdeburg.

He studied singing with Hermann Christian Polster in Leipzig. He was first award winner of the German Schubert Society and scholarship holder of the Free State of Saxony.

Dirk Schmidt made his opera debut at the Opera House of Halle followed by guest appearances at various European opera houses (Leipzig, Basel, Cottbus, Paris, Luzern, Vaduz).

Important roles include Mozart's Figaro, Conte, Sarastro, Commendatore, Beethoven's Minister, Humperdinck's Besenbinder, Bellini's Lord Valton, Saint-Saens's Abimelech, the bass solo in Purcell's Fairy Queen, Pergolesi's Uberto as well as operas of the 20th century by C. Orff, W. Braunsfels and K. Weill.

His extensive repertoire ranges from Monteverdi's Marienvesper to first performances and their recordings. He sang almost all important roles of Baroque music, the classical age, the Age of Romanticism and the 20th century.

He has performed in many European countries. Dirk Schmidt has worked with prestigious ensembles including the Thomanerchor Leipzig, the Gewandhausorchester, the Radio Orchestras of MDR and NDR, the Radio Orchestra of Berlin, the Europa Philharmonie etc. and a lot of famous conductors.

His intensive involvement in the music of the 17th and 18th centuries and that of J.S.Bach and the Baroque music of Central Germany in particular has consequently been followed by invitations to renowned festivals such as the Händelfestspiele in Halle and Göttingen, to Bach festivals all over Europe, to the Salzburger Festspiele and the Schleswig-Holstein-Festival, to festivals in Utrecht and Bergen (Norway).

His particular liking of chamber music from recital to unusual exquisite programmes for bass and chamber orchestra led to cooperation with several outstanding pianists and excellent chamber music ensembles.

In addition to his artistic activities, Dirk Schmidt is professor of singing at the University of Music und Theatre „Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy“ Leipzig.

Meanwhile he was also professor of singing at the Hamburg University of Music and Drama. He gives master classes in Germany and Europe.

Moreover, he works as a voice teacher for the famous St. Thomas Boys' Choir of Leipzig.

Many radio productions and CD recordings, among them MDR, NDR, Deutschlandradio, RAI, DECCA, cpo show the singer's versatility.

For further information: www.dirk-schmidt-bass.de