

# Schwertsik Kurt (b.25 June 1935 Vienna)

## Der Schlaf der Gerechten op.90 (2004) 15'

[The Sleep of the Righteous]

Chamber opera in one act

Libretto by Kristine Tornquist (G)

### World Premiere

31 October 2004 Tiroler Landestheater, Innsbruck

Director: Kristine Tornquist

Conductor: Dorian Keilhack

Company: Sirene Operntheater Wien

### Scoring

S,A,T,B

bcl.asax—tpt.trbn—accordion—vib—vln.db

### Roles

Johanna  
*Soprano* Zwerg (Dwarf)  
*Alto*

Johann  
*Tenor* Voltaire  
*Bass*

### Synopsis

Johann and Johanna have everything in life except an heir who satisfies their demands. They reject a dwarf who does not size up to their expectations, and Voltaire who is too difficult to understand. The third heir apparent is a thief who seems perfect at last. The couple can finally go to sleep, but in the night the thief steals everything they have.

# ter Schiphorst Iris (b.22 May 1956 Hamburg)

## Die Gänsemagd (2009) 90'

[The Goose Girl]

Opera for children

Libretto by Helga Utz (G)

### World Premiere

2009/10 Taschenoper, Vienna (planned)

### Scoring

c.6 singers

bcl—accordion—vlc—sampler

### Roles

Princess King / Butcher

Her mother, the Queen / Prince

Kürdchen, The Goose Keeper The Horse

Female Servant

### Synopsis

A princess is sent by her mother to a distant kingdom in order to marry a rich prince. With a talisman her mother gave her and

accompanied by her maid and Fallada, a speaking horse, she sets out on her journey. Along the way, the maid suddenly refuses to serve her lady. When the princess kneels down at a brook to drink some water, she loses her talisman. As a result, the maid gains power over the princess who is now unprotected. She switches their roles, commands the princess to remain silent and, on arrival at their destination, marries the prince. Fearing that Fallada might betray her, she has him killed.

The princess, now a goose girl working with Kürdchen, a goose keeper, asks the knacker to hang the horse's head from the city gate. Whenever she passes the gate, the horse speaks to her. Kürdchen, not knowing what to make of this, talks to the king about what he has seen. When the princess is confronted by the king, she refuses to answer since she is sworn to silence. The king suggests that she crawl into an oven to express her grief there in private. However, he eavesdrops on her and tells her story at his dinner party, asking his daughter-in-law, the former lady's maid, for her opinion as to the proper punishment for such a deed. The punishment she suggests is finally administered to herself, and the true princess is married to the prince. *AM*

# Steinke Günter (b.24 April 1956 Lübeck)

## Till Eulenspiegel (2003–04) 100'

Opera for children

Libretto by Helga Utz, based on 'Ein kurzweiliges Buch von Till Eulenspiegel aus dem Lande Braunschweig' by Hermann Bote, 1510 (G)

### World Premiere

16 May 2004 Theater, Werkstatt, Darmstadt

Director: Nicholas Broadhurst

Conductor: Norbert Biemann

Company: Staatstheater Darmstadt

### Scoring

M,2T,Bar,B,speaker

children's chorus

1.0.1.0—0.1.1.0—perc(1):marimba/cym/Chin.cym/crot/metal bl/  
5wdb/5tpl.bl/bongos/2tom-t(med,lg)/tam-t(med)/BD/SD—  
vln.vla.vlc.db

### Roles

Till Eulenspiegel  
*Tenor*

Till's mother /  
Countess von Hirschwald /

Nurse  
*spoken role* Second witness  
*Baritone*

Priest /  
The Baker's assistant /  
First witness /  
Minister  
*Bass*

Master carpenter /  
Steal /

Teacher /  
Infirmary master  
*Tenor*

Baker /

Smart /

Blacksmith /

Adelheid /

Second witness

*Baritone*

The Beautiful stupid

countrywoman /

Countess von Fischbach /

The Baker's wife /

Donkey

*Mezzo Soprano*

Citizens