

Daniel Ochoa, Baritone

Baritone Daniel Ochoa has made himself a name as a highly versatile opera and concert singer; he is much in demand on the German and international scene.

The schedule for the current 2024/25 season includes concerts with the MDR Symphony Orchestra, the Munich Symphony Orchestra and the Bremen Philharmonic Orchestra as well as appearances at the Cologne Philharmonie, the Berlin Philharmonie, the Liederhalle Stuttgart, the Isarphilharmonie Munich, the Laeishalle Hamburg and Oslo Cathedral. Following an invitation from Ken-David Masur, Daniel Ochoa will make his US debut with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra in November 2024 with Johann Sebastian Bach's Christmas Oratorio.

In the past season, concert tours have taken him to the Leipzig Gewandhaus, the Berlin Philharmonie, the Düsseldorf Tonhalle, the Cologne Philharmonie, the Hamburg Laeishalle, the Isarphilharmonie Munich, the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, the Auditorio Nacional de la Música Madrid, the Seine Musicale Paris and to the Leipzig Bach Festival, among others.

Daniel Ochoa, who was born in the GDR to a German mother and an Equatorial Guinean father, discovered his love of singing at the age of five in the children's radio choir in his home town of Leipzig. His vocal studies took him to three universities (Rostock, Leipzig, Berlin) and beyond with inspiring teachers such as Anthony Baldwin, Hans-Joachim Beyer, Matthias Goerne, Thomas Quasthoff and finally Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. Each of these teachers encouraged Daniel in a unique way to humbly put his voice at the service of the music and the word - a maxim that he still strives for in every single performance.

Over the years, Daniel Ochoa has developed a broad repertoire ranging from the Renaissance to contemporary compositions, whereby, as a Leipzig native, he feels particularly committed to the works of Johann Sebastian Bach. He is therefore in constant demand as a Bach interpreter with ensembles such as the Dresdner Kreuzchor, the Leipzig Thomanerchor, the Munich Bach Choir, the Balthasar Neumann Ensemble and the Gaechinger Cantorey.

After initial guest engagements as Don Giovanni, Rossini-Figaro and Ottokar (Freischütz) at independent theaters (Dresden, Hamburg) and various theaters (Altenburg/Gera, Bad Lauchstädt, Flensburg), Daniel Ochoa was a member of the Vienna Volksooper ensemble from 2012 to 2017, singing roles such as Figaro and Wildschütz-Graf, Barbiere, Giovanni, Marcello (La Bohème) and the baritone role in Carmina Burana in over 20 performances. During this time, his collaboration with directors such as Brigitte Fassbaender, Achim Freyer, Marco Arturo Marelli and Rolando Villazón provided particularly important inspiration.

In 2018, Daniel Ochoa ended his time in the Vienna ensemble to devote himself more to concert singing and has since realized projects at the Semperoper Dresden, the Hamburg State Opera, the Cologne Philharmonic, the Concertgebouw Bruges, the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow and far beyond Europe's borders in Taipei and Cape Town.

Among the special enrichments in Daniel Ochoa's career are undoubtedly his encounters with conductors such as Herbert Blomstedt (Carl Nielsen, Symphony No. 3), Reinhard Goebel (Bach cantatas), Howard Griffiths (songs and arias from Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess"), Helmuth Rilling (St. John Passion) and Paul McCreech (Mendelssohn, "The First Walpurgis Night").

The field of lieder has always been close to Daniel Ochoa's heart because he appreciates the challenge of captivating his audience almost exclusively with vocal means from the first to the last moment and transporting them into the miniature worlds of lieder singing. Repeated first appearances as a lieder singer at the Schumann House in Leipzig were soon followed by recitals at various festivals (Mendelssohn Festival, Max Reger Festival) and finally at venues such as the Leipzig Gewandhaus (Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen) and the Hamburg State Opera (Mahler's Rückert Lieder). A highly acclaimed CD recording was made in 2018 of Gregor Meyer's arrangement of Schubert's "Winterreise" for baritone, piano and mixed choir.

Numerous CDs, some of them award-winning, document his artistic work.