

Vladimiras Prudnikovas

Vladimiras Prudnikovas (born 1949, Vilnius) is one of the most famous Lithuanian basses, a professor of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, former Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, inspirer, organizer and frequent adjudicator of many Lithuanian musical events and vocal competitions.

His musical career began at the age of 10 in the boys' and youth's choir Ažuoliukas, guided by Herman Perelstein. In 1979 he graduated from professor Zenonas Paulauskas' class at the Lithuanian State Conservatoire (now Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre) and embarked on a vocal career at the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre. On the same year Mr. Prudnikovas was admitted to the faculty of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, where from 1992 – 2005 he was the Head of the Singing Department. For two years Mr. Prudnikovas served as the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania (2005 - 2006).

In 1981 he won the 2nd prize in the cantata-oratorio category in the International Maria Callas Competition in Athens. In 1996, Mr. Prudnikovas was awarded the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas, the Cross of Commander; in 1997 he received the coveted Lithuanian National Award for his achievements in the vocal arts, being the first Lithuanian singer awarded with the National Prize of Independent Lithuania. In 1998 as the Best Singer of the Year he was presented with the statuette of Kipras by the Association of Lithuanian Opera Lovers.

V. Prudnikovas has achieved international recognition while singing in many world-famous theatre and concert halls: Paris Theatre des Champs Elysees, New York City Opera, Italy, Japan, Malta, Greece, Germany, Holland, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Slovakia, etc. He has participated in many prestigious festivals, like: Echternach in Luxemburg, G. Rossini's festival in Wildbad, Berliner Festwochen's and Schleswig-Holstein's in Germany, Castell de Perelada and Sagra musicale Malatestiana in Spain, International Festival and Events (USA), Prague Spring in Czech Republic, G. Verdi's festival in Le Roncole (Italy), Savonlinna Opera Festival in Finland.

The repertoire of Vladimiras Prudnikovas is particularly extensive. During the three decades of his career he has prepared and performed more than 30 operatic roles, including the leading parts in opera productions of Ch. Gounod (Faust), G. Verdi (Rigoletto, Don Carlos, Otello, Nabucco, Macbeth, Aida, Simon Boccanegra), W. A. Mozart (Don Giovanni, Die Entführung aus dem Serail), G. Rossini (Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Sigismondo), R. Wagner (Tanhauser, Der fliegende Holländer), M. Mussorgsky (Boris Godunov, Chovanscina) and many others.

The soloist has performed bass parts in more than 70 compositions of symphonic-oratorical genre. V. Prudnikovas is a very experienced performer; he has appeared with renowned Lithuanian and foreign conductors, such as Iehudi Menuhin, Justus Frantz, Cyril Diederich, Vladimir Spivakov, Dmitry Kitayenko, Vladimir Fedoseyev, Jonas Aleksa, Saulius Sondeckis, Juozas Domarkas, Gintaras Rinkevicius and others.