

BEN HEPPNER



Ben Heppner is one of the world's premier dramatic tenors. Born and raised in Dawson Creek, BC, Heppner studied music at the University of British Columbia, winning the CBC Talent Competition in 1979. In 1988 he gained international recognition as a winner of the Metropolitan Opera Competition, and the first winner of the Birgit Nilsson Prize. These two distinctions secured him international recognition and poised him to become one of the most celebrated tenors of his time.

Possessing a voice that is uniquely both lyrical and powerful, Heppner has made opera's most challenging tenor repertoire his bread and butter. Each character, from Wagner's Lohengrin to Mozart's Idomeneo, has come alive musically and dramatically under Heppner's care. When Mr. Heppner first took the stage as Tristan, in *Tristan und Isolde*, in August 1998, he was heralded in the press as "a Tristan for the new millennium." He subsequently sang this heroic role at the most prestigious houses and festivals in North America and Europe.

He continues to set new standards in his demanding repertoire. In the 2009-2010 season, he premiered the role of Captain Ahab in Jake Heggie's new opera *Moby Dick* at Dallas Opera. Just previously, in 2008, he had debuted in the challenging title role of Siegfried at the Festival d'Aix en Provence, returning the next year to carry out the character's fate in *Götterdämmerung*. In the upcoming 2013-2014 season, he has been chosen to be Peter Grimes by both the Canadian Opera Company and the Vienna State Opera in this important Britten centennial year.

Audiences at home and abroad have been blessed by Heppner's musicianship and characteristic generosity of spirit. He maintains affection for his native land, having taken recital programs into smaller cities throughout Canada. He has received multiple Juno and Grammy Awards for his many solo and opera albums. He is much sought after as a recitalist, recording artist, teacher, and friend. J□ Mr. Heppner is a Companion of the Order of Canada.