

Walter Raffeiner



Born in 1947 in Wolfsberg (Austria), the internationally acclaimed Brecht interpreter, Marthaler actor and opera tenor Walter Raffeiner, in *THE SOUNDS OF SILENTS*, recites Ringelnatz poems that Willy Sommerfeld sets to music.

Raffeiner, who sees himself as an "Errorist" (private thinker), graduated from the Vienna School of Music in 1971 with a *Diplom* degree in Song and Oratory.

Between 1972 and 1978, he took numerous engagements as high baritone at mid-level concert houses in Germany. In 1978, he made the transition to character tenor and "German hero."

From then on, Raffeiner was guest singer at major concert houses in Frankfurt am Main, Munich, Hamburg and Vienna, singing *Eisenstein*, *Belsazar*, *Lohengrin*, *Parsifal*, *Tristan*, *Herodes*, among others.

Intermittent concerts, avant-garde pieces, theater and songs followed - including the "New Viennese Songs" with the Attensam Quartet.

In 1998, he was guest artist with the "Klangforum Wien" in "Pariser Leben" at the Burgtheater, and in 1999 in "Bählamms Fest".

Many of Raffeiner's interpretations, with renowned accompaniment, have been released on CD. These include:

"Salome" (Philips), released Aug. 10, 1994

Featuring, besides Raffeiner:

Jessye Norman, Kerstin Witt, Annette Markert, Andreas Conrad, Richard Leech, Karl-Friedrich Hölzke, James Morris, Frank Schiller, Andreas Schmidt, Günter Dreßler, Matthias Henneberg, Harrie Peeters, Rolf Tomaszewski

"Wozzeck" (Deutsche Grammophon), released Nov. 22, 1988

Featuring, besides Raffeiner:

Aage Haugland, Philip Langridge, Heinz Zednik, Alfred Sramek
Alexander Maly, Anna Gonda, Peter Jelosits, Werner Kamenik, the Vienna State Opera Choir, the Viennese Boys Choir, the Vienna Philharmonic

"Brecht, Weill: Die Sieben Todsünden / Mahoganny Singspiel" (Capriccio), released Dec. 27th, 2000

Featuring, besides Raffeiner:

Trudeliese Schmidt, Gabriele Ramm, Horst Hiestermann,
Hans Franzen, König Ensemble, Carlos Feller, Dieter Ellenbeck, Doris Bierett
Karl Markus

"Weill: Die Dreigroschenoper (Three Penny Opera) (unabridged)" (Capriccio), released Dec. 27th, 2000

Besetzung neben Raffener:

Peter Nikolaus Kante, Jane Henschel, Ulrike Steinsky,
Gabriele Ramm, Rolf Wollrad, Jolanta Kuznik, Reinhard Firchow,
Händel Collegium Köln, König Ensemble

"Weill: Happy End (Gesamtaufnahme)" (Capriccio), Veröffentlichung: 27.12.2000

Featuring, besides Raffener:

Gabriele Ramm, Karin Ploog, Steven Kimbrough, Pro Musica Cologne,
König Ensemble

Raffener lives in Frankfurt am Main. Together with his friend and filmmaker Hans-Peter Böffgen, he produces films under the label Umfal.com. Their films include "Das Ende der Wurst," "Das ist dein Kätzchen nicht, das ist die Morgensonne" or "Der Scheiterhaufen."