

SAPPHO

OPERA IN THREE ACTS

BY PEGGY GLANVILLE-HICKS

WOLFGANG KOCH

MINOS

Wolfgang Koch is currently one of the most important dramatic bass-baritones in the opera world. His studies at the Munich Music High School and with Josef Metternich, Gianni Raimondi and Leondino Ferri were followed by engagements in the ensembles of Stadttheater Bern, Staatsoper Stuttgart and the Wiener Volksoper where Koch celebrated great successes in new productions of Schreker's *Irrelobe*, Kienzl's *Evangelimann*, Orff's *Die Kluge* and d'Albert's *Tiefland*.



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Koch now works freelance in the world's most important opera houses. In Frankfurt in 2006 he made his highly praised debut as Hans Sachs in Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. At this house he has also sung the title role in Reimann's *Lear*, Mandryka (*Arabella*) and Boromeo (*Palestrina*). Koch has achieved great success at the Wiener Staatsoper with Hans Sachs, Telramund (*Lohengrin*), Jochanaan (*Salome*) and Barak (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*). His triumphs at the Staatsoper Hamburg include Alberich in new productions of Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*, Jochanaan, and new productions of Dean's *Bliss* and *Don Giovanni*.

Koch is also deeply involved with the Staatsoper Munich where he has sung leading roles in *Doktor Faust*, *Palestrina*, *Lohengrin*, *Fidelio* and the *Ring*. In 2011 Koch made his debuts at the Salzburg Festival and at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. In Wagner's centenary, 2013, he has been cast in major role debuts as Wotan for the Bayreuth Festival's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. He makes his debut with the Metropolitan Opera, New York in 2014. Concert appearances have led him to La Scala, the Accademia Santa Cecilia in Rome, to Hamburg, Brussels, Paris and Vienna's Konzerthaus and Musikverein. Koch has participated in many CD and DVD recordings including *Das Rheingold*, *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung* (Hamburg), *Lear* (Frankfurt), and *Palestrina* and *Lohengrin* (Munich).