

erkan - aki

THE TENOR VOICE OF POPULAR CLASSIC

SHORT BIO



” THE MESSAGE OF A SONG WILL REACH MORE PEOPLE THAN ANY OTHER MEDIUM. “

Erkan Aki, born on June 20, 1969, in the tiny Swiss community of Sursee with a population of less than 10,000, now reaches out to millions all over the world with his extraordinary voice. The son of Turkish immigrants, he grew up under as the product of two very different cultures which have retained a powerful influence over his life to this day and are reflected in all of his activities on behalf of the promotion of integration processes. His awards in recognition of his efforts on behalf of intercultural projects include the 2002 German-Turkish Friendship Award.

*Erkan's professional journey on the way to becoming one of the world's best tenors started at the age of seventeen. After attending a performance of Johann Strauss' operetta "Die Fledermaus" at the Zurich Opera House, he decided to study classical singing. While studying under Swiss tenor and music teacher **Paul Späni**, Erkan specialized in Applied Vocal Music and quickly made his biggest dream come true: a career as a professional singer. After three years of studying Music Theory in Istanbul, he returned back to Zurich where he put himself in the capable hands of music professor **Jane Thorner-Mengedoht** of Zurich Music Conservatory under whose aegis he met his future wife, Anna Steiner.*

*Erkan happened to make a studio recording with **Atila Sereftug**, the composer of Céline Dion's winning song "Ne partez pas sans moi", which by sheer stroke of luck made it into the hands of renowned concert promoter and agent **David Lieberberg** who helped Erkan get his first record contract with Sony Music – Columbia Records Germany. What followed was the production of his first album "Here's to the Heroes" with **star producer Nigel Wright** (Madonna, Barbara Streisand, José Carreras). Success was not long in coming – the album stormed the German charts and with his unmistakable he quickly succeeded in mesmerizing a very broad audience.*

*Right from the outset, **Erkan Aki** came to realize that his audience is especially fond of classic-style performances of popular music. And his live performance became special highlights of music history, like his 1999 New Year's Eve performance before more than 1.5 million people at the Brandenburg Tor or his joint performance with **Montserrat Caballé** at the sold-out Xanten Arena. Equally unforgettable is his appearance as the first artist ever in the Palace of Tranquil Longevity within Beijing's Forbidden City.*

*His second album "Pop Classics" is an impressive continuation of this trend which put him in the international press for the first time as "The Tenor Voice of Popular Classic". The album is followed by recordings with international stars like **Xavier Naidoo** and **Patricia Kaas**, and the publication of his German-language only third album entitled "Zeit der großen Gefühle". With his albums entitled "Songs for Lovers" and "Music in my Heart" **Erkan Aki** again demonstrates his versatile artistic and soulful talent. Two additional albums are soon to follow: "In Love for Europe", with songs in seven different languages, and the Christmas album "Romantische Weihnachten".*

*Several joint concert tours with international star **Sarah Brightman**, i.e. a 2009 tour of South and Central America and a 2010 tour of Japan, China, Korea, and Canada and continuous proof of his versatility and extraordinary talent for live performances which include both his unique, trademark popular classic style and bona fide classical pieces. His 2009 "Nur die Hits" best-of album is his last album so far and he is currently busy with other projects, first and foremost the birth of his Yasin on August 7, 2010. Add to that his indefatigable work for social projects like the José Carreras Foundation, Unicef, or a number of German-Turkish integration programs.*

***Erkan Aki**, artist extraordinaire and an even more extraordinary human being, whose career has never been fuelled by ego-centered or narcissist motives, but by the three big loves of his life: his family, other human beings, and music!*

*Darling of the public, charmer, celebrated public character, warm-hearted personality, star tenor –
The Tenor Voice of Popular Classic.*

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