

Branko Robiňak

tenor

circulum vitae
english

Branko Robiňak was born in Maribor, Slovenija. He studied music at the Ljubljana's Music Academy with Professor Eva Nouřak-Houřka. Already as a student he was engaged by the Slovene National Opera in Ljubljana, where he made his operatic debut as Tamino in Mozart's „The Magic Flute“. The following summer he was awarded a prize at the „**Mario del Monaco singing competition**“ in Treviso.

After graduation at the Ljubljana's Academy, he was perfecting his singing at the **Mozarteum** in Salzburg with Professor **Sena Jurinac**. In 1987 he sang at the Salzburg Landestheater under the conductor **Hans Graf**, under whose lead Robiňak also made his debut in Mozart's „Idomeneo“ in the **Alte Oper of Frankfurt**. During the same summer he made his first appearance at **Salzburger Sommerfestspiele** in many concert productions. In 1988, he created the role of **Ozia** in Mozart's early opera „**La Betulia liberata**“ on the occasion of **Mozart's Festwochen**, directed by **Ernst Poetgen** and conducted by **Walter Hagen-Groll**; the production was repeated at the **Salzburger Sommerfestspiele**. During his performing in Salzburg, the staging of Mozart's „Don Giovanni“, directed by **Joachim Hertz**, and some noted concert appearances conducted by **Milan Horvat** (Missa solemnis, Mozart-Requiem,...) ought to be mentioned. In the season 89/90, he signed a contract with the Opera House Graz, where he performed the part of **Idamante** in Mozart's „Idomeneo“ under the artistic lead of **Nikša Bareza**, Tamino (Die Zauberflöte) and **Benedict** (Berlioz ; Beatrice and **Benedict**, conducted by **Jean Perrison**. The artistic collaboration with N.Bareza continued in various festivals. In 91 Branko Robiňak appeared at the „**Wiener Sommer**“ as Don Ottavio which was characterized by critics as a „discovery“. During the same summer B.R. took part in the seminar led by famous Italian tenor **Franco Corelli** and his wife **Loretta**. This represented a turning point in Robiňak's career - from technical point of view as well as regards the repertoire selection.

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After a year of hard studies with the Italian couple, he succeeded in signing a contract for heavier repertoire in Innsbruck (Oedipus Rex - Stravinsky). In 92 B.R. sang in Vienna in a concert production of Bellini's opera „Beatrice di Tenda“ conducted by **Pinkas Steiberg** and with **Edita Gruberova** in the title role. Swiss gramophone company Nichtigale Classics AG made a CD record of the concert. In 93, he took debut as Duca di Mantova in Verdi's „Rigoletto“ in Deutsches Theater in Munich. In the following years he appeared in this role in various European opera houses. The guest appearance with Swiss „Ensemble Theatre“ in the role of Leicester in Donizetti's Maria Stuard has to be mentioned as well. Besides the current performances of the permanent repertoire in 95, the appearances in Spain (San Sebastian, Bilbao, Madrid) with Dvorak's Stabat Mater, the appearance with Franz Schmit's oratorio „Das Buch mit sieben Siegeln“, conducted by **Teodor Guschlbauer** at the **Nürnberg Summer Festival** and the appearance in Teatro G. Verdi in Trieste also with Dvořak „Stabat Mater“ and conducted by **Julian Kovatschev** are worth mentioning. In the same year Mladinska knjiga publishing house edited Robiňak's first monographic CD record with famous opera arias, accompanied by the Symphonists of the RTV Slovenija. The tenor B. Robiňak has prepared in the season 96/97 the Donizetti's Roberto Devereux production with „Ensemble Theatre“ of Biel (Switzerland) under artistic direction of **Marc Tardue** and the concert production of Bruckner's Te Deum with **Orchestre Philharmonique de Strassbourg** under **Teodor Guschlbauer**. Also worth mentioning is the Puccini's La Boheme production with „Ensemble Theatre“ of Biel, where he sang **Rodolfo** with big success. For October 97 maestro Nikša Bareza invited B.R. to the scenic production of Schubert - Denissow **Lazarus** with the

Radio symphony orchestra of Croatia to create the role of **Lazarus**. The performances has been recorded and broadcasted by the Croatian television. The season 99/2000 included performances of **Foresto** (G. Verdi - Attila) in Switzerland and Germany, **Don José** (Bizet - Carmen) in Switzerland and France, **Pollione** (Bellini - Norma) in Switzerland, **Pinkerton** (Puccini - Madame Butterfly), **Cavaradossi** (Puccini - Tosca) with Staatsoper Dancig. In November 99 B.R. sang **Narraboth** in Zagreb (Croatia) under **Kazushi Ono**.

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Since 2000 B.R. is again the member of the Slovenian Nacionalopera in Ljubljana, where sang the **Prince of Rusalka** (Ljubljana) and **Ismaele** (Nabucco), **Ernani** in Switzerland and Germany (Karlsruhe), **Pollione** (Norma) in Porto under stage director **Tim Colleman** in April 2001. In the saison 01/02 B.R. sang G. Verdi Trovatore (**Manrico**) and **Lensky** in Ljubljana and some concert productions (G. Verdi - Requiem, Dvořák - Stabat Mater - Barcelona, Ernani Karlsruhe). 02/03 contains some productins in Zagreb Nacionalopera – Trovatore (**Manrico**), La Boheme (**Rodolfo**), Idomeneo (**Idomeneo**), in Ljubljana he sang **Faust** in Gonod's Faust in the coproduction (Karlsruhe, Salzburg, Ljubljana). In September 03 the tenor B.R. started with **Pollione** (Norma), Smareglia (Oceana). In January 04, he debuted in Verdi's Aida as **Radames**, Trovatore (**Manrico**) Novara, Gonoud - Faust, May Puccini Tosca (**Cavaradossi**) Ljubljana, The season 04/05 contented productions in Teatro Verdi Trieste; Zandonai: I Cavalieri di Ekebú (**Giosta Berling**) conductor Steven Mercurio and Gonoud's Faust (Faust) conductor **Jean Clode Cassadesus**.

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In January 05 B.R. has taken part in **J. Offenbach - Die Reinnixen** - (worldpremiere) under the conductor Dieter Rossberg and stage director Manfred Schweigkofler. In february 05, B.R. sang G. Verdi - Luisa Miller in Opera Split with Paolo Coni and Svetla Vasiljewa and few months later his first Chenier in U. Giordano's - Andrea Chenier (**A. Chenier**). In summer, he participated the summer festival of Split with Nabucco (Ismaele) and **Pollione** (Norma). In december 05 he sang the 9. th Simfony (Beethoven) with Zagreb filharmonie under Georg Pahlivenian. The year 06 started with H. Berlioz Te Deum with the Slovenian filharmonie. Next important production was the first representacion of first version (Petesburg version) **Verdi's La forza del Destino** in Bern under **Maurizio Barbacini**, where B.R. sang his first **Don Alvaro**. In April 06 B.R. sang **Rodolfo** in the premiere of La Boheme in Ljubljana Opera house. In summer festival of Ljubljana, he take part with Mozart Requiem. In autum B.R. sang a Trovatore (**Manrico**) production in Operahouse of Zagreb. At his Operahouse in Ljubljana he participated the roles of Manrico, Chenier, Rodolfo, Franz (Die Reinnixen), Alfredo (La Traviata) as first stabile houstenor. The year 07 was marked with recordings of Veridi's famous and less famous operaarias with the simfonic orchestra of Slowenian filharmonie under maest. Ivo Lipanović. Between the recordings he sang some performances of La Boheme in Split and lately he performed the role of **Franz (Die Reinnixen - Offenbach)** in Bolzano. Also worth mentioning is the production of Bizet's Carmen, where he sang **Don José** under stage director **Charles Roubaud** and **Peter Feranec** as a conductor. In the season 2009/10 he took part as Vladimir Igorevič in Borodin's Knjaz Igor under stage director Plamen Kartaloff and conductor Grigorij Palikarof. In the summer 2010 B.R. two Puccinis operas: Madame Butterfly (Pinkerton) and **Manon Lescaut (Des Grieux)** in the staging of Gulio Ciabatti. In january 2011 he took part as Princ of Dvořák's Rusalka in the coproduction with **Glyndenbourne festival** under Melly Still (Ian Rutherford) staging and with conductor **Tomáš Hanus**.

In february 2011 B.R. got the highest slovenian kulture price for the roles of: Franz (Reinixen-Offenbach), Vladimir Igorevič (Knjaz Igor-Borodin), Lazarus (F.Schubert), Pinkerton and Des Grieux (Puccini M.Butterfly, Manon Lescaut). In May 2011 he took part in the coproduction with **Zagreb Bienale** and Split Operahouse within new opera *Maršal*, written by Silvio Foretić. Next year he debuted in the same theatre as Eisenstein in *The Bat* of Johann Strauss II conducted by **Nada Matošević** and directed by **Ozren Prohić**.



Season of the 2011/12 is remarked by first performance of Jani Golob's (composer) - Vinko Möderndorfer's (director) opera *Love capital*, which was the first performed opera in renewed opera house of Ljubljana and also an modified production of **Verdi's Nabucco** conducted by **Maestro Eddi de Nadai**, directed by Detlef Schölter, where he performed the role of Ismaele. In the same season, B.R. sang as **Dex Grioux in Puccini's Manon Lescaut**, conducted by **Nada Matošević** and directed by Polish director **Janusz Kica** in **HNK Ivan Zajc at Rijeka**. The production has nine repetitions and it's available to be seen on Youtube.com. In January 2013, B.R. debuted as **Erik** in Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*, directed by **Matjaž Berger** and conducted by **Aleksandar Marković**. The same role he sang at the summer festival of Split 2013 in the production directed by Branko Brezovec and conducted by **Tonči Bilić**.



The season 2013/14, B.R. begun with the premiere of Verdi's *Rigoletto* conducted by **Loris Voltolini**. After many years, he took over the role of Duca di Mantova. After success in Ljubljana he went to Verdi's Festival in the Theatre of Antonin Dvořak in Ostrava in Czech Republic, where he presented himself in the role of Ernani in Verdi's *Ernani*, conducted by **Tomáš Brauner** and directed by **Marian Chudovský**. In October 2013 in Rijeka (Croatia), he participated in **Verdi's Requiem** conducted by **Nikša Bareza**. In December 2013 B.R. celebrated his 30-years anniversary on stage as **Rodolfo** in Puccini's *La Boheme*. At the same period, he sang **Radames** in Verdi's *Aida* in the production of HNK Theatre of Zagreb. This production has been repeated in January 2014 in Rijeka. In March 2014 B.R. debuted as **Riccardo** in Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*. In April 2014 in HNK Zagreb, he sang the role of **Pollione** in Bellini's *Norma*, directed by **Philipp Himmelmann** and conducted by Italian conductor **Antonello Allemandi**



In January 2015 B.R. debuted as Herodes in the **Richard Strauß opera Salome**, directed by **Andrejs Žagars** and conducted by Loris Voltolini. Soon after that, in March, he sang again **Don José** in Bizet *Carmen* in a new production of Ljubljana operahouse, directed by **Pamela Howard** and conducted by **Jaroslav Kyzlink**. At the Summerfestival »**Thurn und Taxis Schlossfestspiele 2015**« at **Regensburg**, he sang Rodolfo in Puccini's opera *La Boheme*.

Season of the 2015/16 started with Offenbach operette »*Orpheus in the Underworld*«, where he sang the role of Orpheus. In January 2016 B.R. debuted as **Otello in Verdis Otello** directed by Manfred Schweigkofler and conducted by Jaroslav Kyzlink.