

Vladimiras Prudnikovas was born in 1949, in Vilnius (Lithuania). In 1959 began his musical career in the boys' and youth's choir *Ažuoliukas*, guided by Herman Perelstein. In 1979 he graduated from the Lithuanian State Conservatoire (recent the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre) where studied singing with professor Zenonas Paulauskas. Since then he has been singing at the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre and teaching singing at the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre.

In 1981 he won the second prize in the group of cantata-oratorio genre at the International Maria Callas Competition in Athens. 1992-2005 – the head of the Vocal Department of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre. In 1996 he was awarded with the 3rd class order of Lithuania's Grand Duke Gediminas. He is the first Lithuanian singer, awarded with the National Prize of Independent Lithuania. In 1998 the statuette of Kipras was presented by the Association of Lithuanian Opera Lovers to the best singer of the year. 2004-2006 – the Minister of Culture of Lithuania.

V. Prudnikovas has achieved the international recognition while singing in many worldwide famous theatre and concert halls: Paris *Théâtre des Champs-Élysées*, New York City Opera, toured to Italy, Japan, Malta, Greece, Germany, Holland, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Czech Republic, Slovakia, etc. He has participated in the festivals *Echternach* in Luxemburg, G. Rossini's festival in Vildbad, Berliner *Festwochen's* and Schlesvig-Holstein's in Germany, *Castell de Perelada* and *Sagra musicale Malatestiana* in Spain, International Festival and Events (USA), "Prague Spring" in Czech Republic, G. Verdi's festival in *Le Roncole* (Italy), *Savonlinna* Opera Festival in Finland.

He has sung the most important parts in opera productions of Ch. Gounod (*Faust*), G. Verdi (*Rigoletto*, *Don Carlos*, *Otello*, *Nabucco*, *Macbeth*, *Aida*, *Simon Boccanegra*), W. A. Mozart (*Don Giovanni*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), G. Rossini (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Sigismondo*), R. Wagner (*Tanhauser*, *Der fliegende Hollander*), M. Musorgskij ("Boris Godunov", *Chovanschina*) and many others. The soloist has prepared bass parts in more than 70 works of symphonic-oratorical genre. V. Prudnikovas has a great concert performance experience. He has sung together with famous Lithuanian and foreign conductors, such as: Iehudi Menuhin, Justus Frantz, Cyril Diederich, Vladimir Spivakov, Dmitry Kitayenko, Vladimir Fedoseyev, Jonas Aleksa, Saulius Sondeckis, Juozas Domarkas, Gintaras Rinkevičius and others.