



Lucky baritone from the Estonian National Opera

Rauno Elp, an opera singer in the Estonian National Opera, who has an impressive career, has fallen into the hands of "bad boys" network from Finland and is practicing some criminal activities this spring. The keyword is "Cardillac".

Opera "Cardillac" by Paul Hindemith

■ Premier in Estonian National Opera on 14 May 2015
www.opera.ee

"Cardillac" is a story about a jeweller, who is not capable of forcing himself to give away his craft to the customers and keeps killing them instead - terrifying the whole town with his actions. Fortunately it happens in the centre stage of the national opera. And Rauno Elp is quite happy to be a lead actor of the drama. Premiering on May 14th "Cardillac" is a wildly exciting show in all respects. The opera, composed by Paul Hindemith, will be directed by Vilppu Kiljunen and designed by Kimmo Viskari, both from Finland. It's insanely venturous costumes would deserve to be presented in a separate fashion show and the theatre scenery is just really impressive. Anyone should come and listen to this opera conducted by Vello Pähn, because you may not have another opportunity like that in your life time.

Rauno is glad to play the role and his soul is burning with anticipation, because the earlier cooperation with so-called "bad boys" Michel Dijkema and Dmitry Bertman has peaked with such a monumental and ravishing performances like "The Bat", "Wallenberg", "Cinderella" and "Faust". "I'm really burning with curiosity when I can embody characters who are complicated and controversial. They call the most awesome directors as "bad boys", because their imagination and courage let them see their characters in a new and different light. "And that's the reason, which has forced me to reject more traditional approaches as well," says the highly rated baritone of the Estonian National Opera. Rauno Elp values stability in his life, as well as a beautiful music. He has been performing in the national opera for 23 years already. There are many more people, numbers and destinations, which can be used to characterise Rauno's personality. He has performed with Heli Veskus in 22 plays. And now in "Cardillac" once again. Rauno has been playing the role of Germont in "La Traviata" since 1997 and he's looking forward to

do it again in its 200th performance. Rhodes is a destination where the lucky baritone has been spending his vacation for many years, every mid-summer.

Rauno greatly appreciates the values of the Estonian National Opera. "I was 21 years old and just started my training as a singer three years earlier, when they offered me my first vocal score – in the initiative of Aarne Mikk and Eri Klas' approval. I was happy just because of that, but I could never even dream about the variety of roles I have played to this day. I'm happy to continue to practice my speciality at the highest possible level," Rauno makes a conclusion of all his long and successful career. From about 60 of his roles as a baritone, Cyrano in "Cyrano de Bergerac", Rigoletto in the opera of the same name, Wolfram in "Tannhäuser" and Valentin in "Faust" are the most close to his heart. Having received many awards for his unforgettable performances, Rauno values the Georg Ots Prize the most.

"Me and my wife Lemme like European towns and cities a lot. When in Vienna, Munich, Rome, Stockholm or Riga, we try to go and see some of the opera performances if possible, but it's equally exciting to follow the routes of the heroes I've embodied myself. When in Rome we tried to find the church associated with the police chief Scarpia ("Tosca"). We followed the trail of tears of Captain Anckarström ("Un Ballo in Maschera") in Stockholm. Do you know how beautiful the place, where Mascagni wrote his "Cavalleria rusticana" is? In the house right next to the Pantheon in Rome. You're just standing there with closed eyes and thinking: "Ah, still delay—thou art so fair!"

Just how bad it becomes in "Cardillac"? A young man in love comes to order a ring one day... for the jeweller's own daughter. What will happen? Is blood thicker than water? ✱



"The Elixir of Love"