

Finnish baritone Aarne Pelkonen has studied at the Sibelius Academy (Helsinki) with Marjut Hannula and the Hanns Eisler School of Music (Berlin) with Prof. Thomas Quasthoff and Prof. Wolfram Rieger. He has participated in masterclasses with Thomas Hampson and Barbara Bonney, and studied privately with teachers including Mika Kares, Prof. Elisabeth Werres, Gerold Huber and Prof. Charles Spencer.

Aarne Pelkonen was a member of the Oldenburg State Theatre 2015–2017, where he gave many notable performances in roles including Pallante in Händel's *Agrippina*, Figaro in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Donner in Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, and Morales in Bizet's *Carmen*.



Mr Pelkonen has achieved considerable competition success. His awards include 1st Prize in the International Sibelius Singing Competition (2015) and 1st Prize for male voice in the Lappeenranta National Singing Competition (2013). Together with pianist Juho Alakärppä he was a prize winner at Das Lied International Song Competition in Berlin (2011) and the International Student Lied-Duo Competition in Enschede (Netherlands).

Mr Pelkonen is also an active lied and oratorio singer and has performed at the Heidelberger Frühling Festival and the Helsinki Festival, at the Wiener Musikverein and the Stockholm Concert Hall, and with orchestras including the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Ostrobothnian Chamber Orchestra, Tapiola Sinfonietta, the Finnish Baroque Orchestra, and the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra, to name but a few. Mr Pelkonen has released numerous commercial discs, and recent projects include recordings of songs by Brahms and Sibelius for the Finnish Broadcasting Company.