

Nicholas Lester

Baritone



Australian baritone Nicholas Lester studied at the Adelaide Conservatorium of Music and the National Opera Studio, London and was a State Opera of South Australia Young Artist. His studies were sponsored by Glyndebourne Festival Opera as the recipient of the Anne Woods/Johanna Peters Award and he was a recipient of an Independent Opera/National Opera Studio Postgraduate Voice Fellowship, awards from the Simon Fletcher and Tait Memorial Trusts and is very grateful for support from Chris Ball and Serena Fenwick. In 2014 Nicholas was delighted to be voted 'Best Male in a Leading Role' by the Opera Holland Park audience for his performance as Figaro *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.

Recent and future plans include title role *Don Giovanni* (Kilden Opera), title role *Orphée*, Marcello *La Bohème* and Cascada *The Merry Widow* (ENO), Ford *Falstaff* and Lescaut *Manon Lescaut* (Grange Festival Opera), Chou en Lai *Nixon in China*, Josef K in Philip Glass's *The Trial*, Germano *La Scala di Seta*, Dr Malatesta *Don Pasquale* and Ping *Turandot* (Scottish Opera), Daddy Bear *Goldilocks and the Three Little Pigs* The Opera Story, Marcello (New Zealand Opera, English Touring Opera, Iford Festival and Lyric Opera Productions, Dublin), title role *Eugene Onegin* and Figaro *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Welsh National Opera), *Onegin* and Belcore *L'Elisir d'Amore* (West Green House Opera), Guglielmo *Così fan tutte*, Dandini *La Cenerentola*, Figaro and Frédéric *Lakmé* (Opera Holland Park), Valentin *Faust* (Dorset Opera Festival), Guglielmo *Così fan tutte* (Danish National Opera), Escamillo *Carmen* (Mid Wales Opera), excerpts of *Gianni Schicchi* (title role) in a broadcast performance from Amsterdam's newest concert hall, Bimhuis, and Bohuš *The Jacobin* (Buxton Festival). Recent concerts include Raymond Gubbay *Spectacular Classics* at Bridgewater Hall and *Sea Symphony* with Brighton Philharmonic conducted by Barry Wordsworth.

He created the role of Edward Lear in *Ode to nonsense*- a co-production between Slingsby Theatre Company and State Opera of South Australia in Adelaide, and performed Marcello for the State Opera of South Australia. Further roles include Fred / Petrucchio *Kiss Me Kate* (WNO), Belcore *L'elisir d'amore*, Conte Almaviva *Le nozze di Figaro*, Don Giovanni (title role), Theseus *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Doctor and Shepherd *Pelléas et Mélisande*, Diarte *Erismena* (Cavalli), Justizrat and Storch *Intermezzo*, Schaunard *La bohème*, Onegin *Eugene Onegin*, Pietro Simon *Boccanegra*, Aeneas *Dido and Aeneas*, The Foreman *Jenufa*, Miguel *Betrothal in a Monastery* (Prokofiev), Colonel Calverly *Patience*

, *Pirate King The Pirates of Penzance*, Sir Joseph Porter *HMS Pinafore*, Paris *Roméo et Juliette*, Kagler *Wiener Blut*, *The Vicar Albert Herring*.

Notable concert engagements include Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* for Maurice Béjart's ballet *Song of a Wayfarer* with English National Ballet at the London Coliseum, performances of Mendelssohn *Elijah*, Bach Cantatas, Rameau Motets and Mozart *Requiem*. He has sung Brahms *Requiem* in Beijing, Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs* with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Fauré *Requiem* at St Martin-in-the-Fields and *Messiah* under Laurence Cummings.