

Jonathan Best

Bass Baritone



Jonathan Best was born in Kent and educated at St John's College, Cambridge and at the Guildhall School of Music. He made his operatic debut in 1983 with the Welsh National Opera, and has since sung with all the major British Opera companies.

Recent and future plans include Bartolo *The Marriage of Figaro* (Opera North), Lesbo *Agrippina* (The Grange Festival), Father *Traurnacht* (Festival d'Aix en Provence in Arras and Lisbon), Sarastro *The Magic Flute*, Benoit/Alcindoro *La Boheme* and Le Bailli *Werther* (Scottish Opera), Judge Turpin *Sweeney Todd* (Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris and Münchner Rundfunkorchester), Drunken Poet *The Fairy Queen* (in concert with the Handel and Haydn Society, Boston), title role *Saul* (The Sixteen and Boston's Handel & Haydn Society), Capellio *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, Don Fernando *Leonore*, Zebul *Jephtha*, Notary *Intermezzo* and Maître Jean *La Colombe* (Buxton Festival), Don Alfonso *Così fan tutte* and Lord Henry *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Den Jyske Opera), Quince *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Speaker *The Magic Flute* (Garsington Opera), 3rd Seller / Dignitary *The Portrait* and Achilla *Giulio Cesare* (Opera North), Pastor Oberlin *Jakob Lenz* and Bartolo *The Marriage of Figaro* (English National Opera), Sacristan/Lunarbone/Domšic *The Adventures of Mr Broucek* (Opera North/Scottish Opera), *Missa Solemnis* (Gloucester Cathedral), Arthur *The Lighthouse*, Narrator *The Waste Land*, *The Soldier's Tale* and the world première of Sally Beamish's *The Sins* (Psappha Quartet).

A regular guest with Opera North, roles have included Des Grieux *Manon*, Barbe-bleue *Ariane et Barbe-bleue*, Sparafucile *Rigoletto*, Don Alfonso *Così fan tutte*, Leporello *Don Giovanni*, Bottom *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Villabella *The Thieving Magpie*, Speaker *The Magic Flute*, Bishop Caritas, Sirocco *L'étoile*, King *The Love for Three Oranges*, Radcliffe *Billy Budd*, Bartolo *The Marriage of Figaro* and Rambaldo *La rondine*. Further appearances in the UK include Garibaldo *Rodelinda*, Zuniga *Carmen*, Alcindoro *La Boheme*, Valens *Theodora* and Kramer *Tangier Tattoo* (Glyndebourne), Drunken Poet *The Fairy Queen* (ENO and at the BBC Proms), the world premiere of Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' opera *Mr Emmet Takes a Walk* (Psappha), Don Alfonso (Grange Park Opera and Garsington), Doctor *Wozzeck* and Rocco *Fidelio* with BOCO, Quince *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (ROH, Covent Garden), *Saul*, Ralph *The Fair Maid of Perth*, Walter Raleigh *Roberto Devereux*, Oscar *Bluebeard*, Pancratius *The Poacher*, Harapha *Samson*, Gubetta *Lucrezia Borgia*, Sancho Panza *Die Hochzeit des Camacho*, Don Cassandro *La Finta Semplice* and Don Annibale *Il Campanello* (all

Buxton Festival), Leone *Tamerlano* (Scottish Opera) and Foreman of the Mill *Jenufa* (Opera Holland Park).

Engagements abroad include Pitkin *On the Town* (Châtelet), Don Pedro *Béatrice et Bénédict* with Netherlands Opera, Valens in Strasbourg, King *Ariodante*, Zoroastro *Orlando* and Arkel *Pelléas and Mélisande* with Opera Theatre Company in Dublin, Drunken Poet in Barcelona, Antinoo *Il Ritorno D'Ulisse in Patria* for Teatro Sao Carlo, Lisbon, Father Trulove *The Rake's Progress* in Israel and Count Robinson in Sir Jonathan Miller's production of *Il Matrimonio Segreto* at The Brooklyn Academy of Music, USA, as well as appearances at the Salzburg Festival, Maggio Musicale-Florence and Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie.

He appears regularly in concert throughout the United Kingdom and abroad, has appeared at the Proms and has made many recordings for both television and radio. Appearances include *The Fairy Queen* with the Sixteen, Uberto *La Serva Padrona* with the Gabrieli Consort touring Norway, Mozart's *Requiem* (Harrogate Choral Society and Cork), Verdi *Requiem* and *Christus St John Passion* with the Bach Choir, *Jesus St Matthew Passion* in Sheffield and *L'enfance du Christ* with BOCO.