

Barry Banks Tenor



“Barry Banks, that most elegant of top-altitude tenors, demonstrated virtuosic refinement”

- Martin Bernheimer, *Financial Times*, July 2007

Barry Banks's outstanding facility in roles by Bellini, Donizetti and Rossini has brought him to the attention of the world's leading opera houses.

With The Metropolitan Opera he has partnered Natalie Dessay in both *La fille du regiment* and *La sonnambula*, Anna Netrebko in both *Don Pasquale* and *L'elisir d'amore* and Olga Borodina in *L'italiana in Algeri*. During his long association with English National Opera he has appeared most notably as Tamino in *The Magic Flute*, Tom Rakewell in *The Rake's Progress*, and last season with his highly-praised portrayal of Edgardo, sung with “fiery elegance and wonderful ease” (*The Times*, February 2008), in David Alden's acclaimed production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

Current season highlights include his debut at the Bayerische Staatsoper as Don Narciso (*Il turco in Italia*), Count Almaviva (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) at The Metropolitan Opera, and a return to English National Opera as Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*).

Other roles have included Don Ramiro (*La cenerentola*) for his debut at the Gran Teatre del Liceu; Oreste (*Ermione*) for his debut at the Santa Fe Opera Festival; Belfiore & Libenskof (*Il viaggio a Reims*) for his debut at Teatro Comunale di Bologna; and L'Astrologue (*Le coq d'or*) for his debut at Théâtre du Châtelet. In the role of Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*) he has appeared in Salzburg, Leipzig and Brussels.

In concert Barry Banks has performed *The Dream of Gerontius* with Münchner Philharmoniker under Sir Andrew Davis; *War Requiem* with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg under Jan Latham-Koenig; and Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Daniele Gatti. Other highlights have included *Ermione* in concert at Carnegie Hall, concert versions of *I puritani* and *Linda di Chamonix* at Caramoor Festival, Rossini's *Armida* at the Edinburgh Festival under Carlo Rizzi and Elvino (*La sonnambula*) under Kent Nagano at the Knowlton Festival.

Barry Banks's discography includes *The Elixir of Love*, *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, *Don Pasquale*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Thieving Magpie* and *The Magic Flute* for the Chandos Opera in English series; *La bohème* under Kent Nagano and *Un ballo in maschera* under Carlo Rizzi both for Teldec; and *Trial by Jury* under Sir Charles Mackerras for Telarc. DVD releases include *Billy Budd* in the English National Opera production for Virgin/EMI, and *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* which was recorded at Buckingham Palace. His solo recital disc – *Barry Banks sings Bel Canto Arias* – is released by Chandos.

2009/2010 season only. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography