

Barry Banks Tenor



"Barry Banks was a superb Oreste, creating the wonderful illusion that his cascading roulades were not some artificial vocal preening but the organic expression of emotion boiled over "

– Jeremy Eichler, *New York Times*

A graduate of The Royal Northern College of Music, Barry Banks has established himself as one of today's finest interpreters of the Italian bel canto repertoire. He is much in demand on the international opera platform, performing at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, The Metropolitan Opera, Opéra National de Paris, English National Opera, Théâtre du Chatelet, the Salzburg Festival, La Monnaie, The Santa Fe Opera and Teatro Communale di Bologna amongst others. His roles include: Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*); Tonio (*La fille du regiment*); Lindoro (*L'Italiana in Algeri*); Nemorino (*L'Elisir d'amore*); Don Ramiro (*La cenerentola*);

Oreste (*Ermione*); Tom Rakewell; Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*); Don Narciso (*Il turco in Italia*); Belfiore & Libenskof (*Il viaggio a Reims*); L'Astrologue (*Le coq d'or*); Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) and Uberto (*La donna del lago*).

A committed concert artist Barry Banks has sung Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* with The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Daniele Gatti, *Fidelio* with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Walter Weller, Bruckner's Requiem with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra under Sir Charles Mackerras, and Rossini's *Armida* at the Edinburgh Festival under Carlo Rizzi. Other highlights have included *War Requiem* with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Strasbourg under Jan Latham-Koenig, *Ermione* in concert at Carnegie Hall and *I puritani* and *Linda di Chamornix* at Caramoor Festival.

Barry Banks' discography includes *The Elixir of Love*, *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, 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.

Season highlights include *La sonnambula* at the Metropolitan Opera and *L'Italiana in Algeri* at Teatro Communale Giuseppe Verdi, Trieste.

2008/2009 season only. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography