Blaise Malaba
Bass

Born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, bass Blaise Malaba studied in Ukraine before training at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and thereafter as a member of the Jette Parker Young Artist Programme at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Praised for his performances of “profundity and gravitas” (*Opera Today*), highlights as a young artist at Covent Garden included Abimélech in Richard Jones’ new production of *Samson et Dalila* under Sir Antonio Pappano, Montano in Keith Warner’s production of *Otello* conducted by Daniele Rustioni, High Priest in Daniele Abbado’s production of *Nabucco* under Daniel Oren, and Second Elder in a staging of Handel’s *Susanna* at the Linbury Theatre.

The 2023/24 season for Blaise Malaba includes a North American debut as Colline in *La Bohème* with Canadian Opera Company, conducted by Jordan de Souza, Zuniga in Covent Garden’s new production of *Carmen* under Sir Antonia Pappano and he joins the cast of both *Turandot* and *Rigoletto* on Covent Garden’s tour to Japan.

Recognised for a resonant and powerful bass, Blaise returned to Covent Garden last season as a guest in several productions: the King of Egypt in Robert Carsen’s new production of *Aida*under Sir Mark Elder, Mandarin in *Turandot* conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano, and Dottore Grenvil in Richard Eyre’s classic staging of *La traviata* under Keri-Lynn Wilson. Last season also saw Malaba make debuts with Opéra national de Montpellier as Sprecher in Anna Bernreitner’s new production of *Die Zauberflöte* conducted by Constantin Trinks, and with Teatro Colón in Weill’s *The Seven Deadly Sins* under Jan Latham-Koenig.

Named as a Rising Star in the October 2020 edition of BBC Music Magazine, highlights elsewhere have included Samuel (*Un ballo in maschera*) for Opera Holland Park and Alidoro (*La Cenerentola*) for the New Generation Festival, Florence and West Green House Opera. His growing operatic repertoire incorporates such roles as Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*), Don Basilio (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), Publio (*La clemenza di Tito*), Sparafucile and Monterone (*Rigoletto*), Banco (*Macbeth*), Prince Gremin (*Eugene Onegin*), Somnus (*Semele*) and Il Re (*Ariodante*).

Concert repertoire includes Verdi’s *Messa da Requiem*, Puccini’s *Messa di Gloria* and Rossini’s *La Petite Messe Solennelle*. In competition Blaise was a finalist in both the Toulouse International Singing Competition (2019) and BBC Cardiff Singer of the World (2015) and took First Prize in the Impreza International Vocal Competition in Ukraine (2015).