Božidar Smiljanić

Bass-Baritone

British bass-baritone Božidar Smiljanić joined the ensemble of Oper Frankfurt in 2018/19,

giving him the opportunity to develop his repertoire considerably with projects in the current season including Doge in a new production of Rossini’s *Bianca e Falliero*, Fernando in *La gazza ladra*, and Der Einarmige in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* under Music Director Sebastian Weigle. Other debut roles have included Garibaldo in Claus Guth’s new production of *Rodelinda*, Ariodate in *Xerxes* under Constantinos Carydis, Farasmene in *Radamisto*, and Eumée in a new production of Fauré’s rarely-performed *Pénélope* under Joana Mallwitz. Repertoire performances include appearances as Figaro (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Zuniga in Barrie Kosky’s *Carmen*, Sprecher in *Die Zauberflöte*, and The Hunter in *Rusalka*.

A regular on the concert platform, Božidar continues to develop strong relationships with a number of key conductors and orchestras. Recent highlights include Bach’s Mass in B minor with Nathalie Stutzmann and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Walton’s *Belshazzar’s Feast* with John Wilson and Brander in Berlioz’s *La damnation de Faust* with Ed Gardner, both with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Masetto (*Don Giovanni*) with Jakub Hrůša and the Bamberger Symphoniker in Bamberg and at Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie, and Handel’s *Messiah* with Hervé Niquet and Le Concert Spirituel, Trevor Pinnock and Das Neue Orchester Köln, and Richard Cooke and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at London’s Royal Albert Hall. With a particularly extensive concert repertoire, Božidar’s further performances include Elgar’s Dream of Gerontius, Dvořák’s Stabat Mater, Fauré’s Requiem, and Beethoven’s Symphony No.9, as well as a large number of Bach’s cantatas under Masaaki Suzuki on tour in the UK, USA and Germany whilst still a student.

On completion of his studies at the Royal Academy of Music, Božidar made his professional operatic debut at Glyndebourne Festival, and has since appeared with all the major UK companies, including Scottish Opera (Schaunard in *La bohème*), Garsington Opera (Haly in *L’italiana in Algeri*), and Glyndebourne on Tour (Masetto). He joined English National Opera as a Harewood Artist in the 2018/19 season and scored a huge triumph in the title role of Joe Hill-Gibbins’ new production of *The Marriage of Figaro*, in which he was described as “physically imposing but vocally agile” (*Guardian*) whilst delivering “his tricky aria with aplomb” (*Sunday Times*).

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