



JOHN SAVOURNIN – BASS BARITONE

BIOGRAPHY

John studied acting with LAMDA, before winning a scholarship to Trinity College of Music. At Trinity, John most notably sang as **Dr. Hasselbacher** in Malcolm Williamson's *Our Man in Havana*, *A Child of our Time* under Garry Walker and Britten's *War Requiem* under Jan Latham Koenig. He was awarded the Founder's Prize for Excellence and the Paul Simms Opera Prize. He continues his studies with Russell Smythe.

Operatic roles include **Count Almaviva** *Le nozze di Figaro*, **Schaunard** *La bohème* and **Dulcamara** *L'elisir d'amore* for British Youth Opera; **Wilkins** *Merrie England* for Opera South, **Marcello** *La bohème* at the Soho Theatre; **Guglielmo** *Così fan tutte* and **Don Basilio** *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* for Opera UK; **Hermann/Schlemil** *Les contes d'Hoffmann* for Mid Wales Opera; **Zuniga/Danciaro** *Carmen* for Opera Novella; **Colline** (cover) *La bohème* and **Sciarrone** (cover) *Tosca* for Raymond Gubbay at RAH; **Don Giovanni** for Minotaur Music Theatre; **The Sentinel** *Cry of Innocence* - created the role for Gyenyame for Performing Arts at Greenwich Theatre. He is a regular personality at the International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival, where he has sung many of the bass-baritone roles, most notably **Captain Corcoran**, **Grosvenor** and the **Pirate King**.

John recently sang his Purcell Room debut as a Park Lane Young Artist, performing contemporary works including 2 world premieres by Phillip Grange and James Young. Other concert and oratorio includes *Messiah* at the Bridgewater Hall, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall and Glasgow Royal Concert Hall; *Serenade to Music* at the Queen Elizabeth Hall; *St. Matthew Passion* for English Chamber Orchestra; *In terra pax* and *Fantasia* on Christmas Carols for the Bath Phil; The Magic of G&S at The National Concert Hall, Dublin.

With an increasing specialism in contemporary music, John has performed Maxwell Davies' *Eight Songs for a Mad King*; **The Man** in Stephen Oliver's *A Man of Feeling*; *Dover Beach*; Finzi's *By Footpath and Style*, Jigsaw Players and Kagel's *...den 24.XII.1931* with The Warehouse Ensemble under Edwin Roxburgh. Recently he sang a collection of 16 'Six Word Operas' by young composers, performed as part of the Tête à tête festival, which will be repeated this year.

As an actor, John has read several melodramas including the UK premiere of Wynton Marsalis' *A Fiddler's Tale* at the Forge in Camden. With Counterpoise, he has performed John Casken's *Deadly Pleasures* (Brighton Festival), Walton's *Facade* and David Matthew's *Acteon*. Strauss' *Enoch Arden*, Liszt's *Lenore* at the Rosemary Branch Festival; Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale* and Walton's *Henry V* at Trinity. In Germany, John played **William Hamilton** in a devised piece about the life of Emma Hamilton and Nelson, entitled *Lady Hamilton's Attitudes*, performed in front of the replica volcano in Dessau. He has also recorded *A Collection of English Fairytales* for Italian cartoons and this year will be his 5th as the Dame in Charles Court Opera's Christmas pantomime ("Outrageously funny" Time Out).

He is artistic director of Charles Court Opera, one of the UK's most diverse small-scale opera companies, who perform works from G&S to Mozart and from Ligeti to pantomime. His work as a director has taken him to the USA, working with young singers, as well as giving performance tutorials and leading workshops on English operetta at Trinity College of Music.

Forthcoming engagements include **Sir Despard** (cover) *Ruddigore* for Opera North, **Armed Man** *Die Zauberflöte* and **Peasant Man** *A Village Romeo & Juliet* for Wexford Festival Opera.

Updated April 2012

This biography should not be altered without prior consent.
Please do not use this biography if it is more than three months old.