

## Njabulo Madlala

BARITONE



Njabulo Madlala was born in Durban, South Africa. In 2002 he won a scholarship to study at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama for graduate and postgraduate studies. He went on to study for a further year at the Cardiff International Academy of Voice with Dennis O'Neill. Additionally, Njabulo has been a Britten Pears Young Artist, a Samling Artist and a young artist at the Ravinia International Festival in the USA.

Among his accolades Njabulo is the winner of the 2010 Kathleen Ferrier Award, 2012 Singers Section Final of the Royal Overseas League Competition, the 2012 Lorna Viol Memorial Prize, the Royal Overseas League Trophy for the most outstanding musician from overseas and Standard Bank Young Artist Award for 2014.

Highlights in recent seasons include his main stage debut at the Royal Opera House in Shostakovich's *The Nose*; Beethoven *Symphony No. 9* in his debut with the Minnesota Orchestra; **Schaunard** *La bohème* and **Bartolomeo** *Il furioso all'isola di San Domingo* both for English Touring Opera; and his Norwegian debut in Orlando Gough's *Voices and Votes* for the Bergen National Opera.

Operatic engagements include the title role in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (Mid Wales Opera); **Don Fernando** *Fidelio*, **Bello** *La fanciulla del West* and **Schaunard** *La bohème* (all for Opera Holland Park); **Whale** and **Elephant** *How the Whale Became* and **Master of the Thames Boat** *Heart of Darkness* (Royal Opera House, Linbury Theatre); **Kammersinger** *Intermezzo* (Buxton Festival Opera); **Peachum** *The Threepenny Opera* (Hawaii Performing Arts Festival); **Scarpia** *Tosca* (Grange Park Opera's 'Rising Stars'); **Rangwan** in Delius's *Koanga* (Sadler's Wells Theatre); **Don Giulio** in Rossini's *L'ajo nell'imbarazzo* (Barga International Festival) and **Mel** in Tippett's *The Knot Garden* (Montepulciano Festival); **Escamillo** (Winslow Hall Opera); **Moralès** *Carmen* (Dorset Opera Festival); and **Porgy** *Porgy and Bess* at the Cheltenham Festival.

In recital Njabulo has performed with Roger Vignoles (Cambridge Festival and Lugo Festival in Spain), Julius Drake (Mananan Festival), Williams Vann (Oxford Lieder Festival & Ripon International Festival), Simon Lepper (Wigmore Hall Monday Concert Series and Buxton Festival), Llŷr Williams (Gower Festival) and with James Baillieu (Lake District Music Festival). His debut CD *Songs of Home* was released in autumn 2013 on the Champs Hill Records label.

Concert highlights include Mozart *Requiem* (English Chamber Orchestra, London Mozart Players and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra); Mahler *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* (London Philharmonic Orchestra / Vladimir Jurowski); Beethoven *Symphony No. 9* (Royal Philharmonic Orchestra); *Belshazzar's Feast* at the Three Choirs Festival (Philharmonia Orchestra) and Royal Festival Hall (Royal Philharmonic Orchestra); *Messiah* (Philharmonia Orchestra); *Elijah* at the Snape Maltings; J. S. Bach *Ich habe genug* (Ten Tors Orchestra); *Dido and Aeneas* at (Wimbledon International Music Festival); and concerts with the KwaZulu Natal Philharmonic Orchestra under Arjan Tien and Richard Cock.

In the current season Njabulo performs **Jim** in a lavish new production of *Porgy and Bess* for English National Opera and the Dutch National Opera. Later in the season he performs **Aeneas** in *Dido*, a new co-production between English National Opera and the Unicorn Theatre.

Updated September 2018, 2018/19 season  
(490 words)