

Keel Watson

BASS BARITONE



Keel Watson studied singing with Elizabeth Hawes and trombone with Roger Brenner at Trinity College of Music.

Highlights in recent seasons include **Doctor Bartolo** *The Marriage of Figaro* for English National Opera; **Usher** *Trial by Jury* at the BBC Proms; **Zuniga** *Carmen* at the Teatro Nacional de São Carlos; **King Sharyaati** *Sukanya* for The Royal Opera and London Philharmonic Orchestra; **Man 2** *Icarus* at the Montepulciano Festival; and **Holländer** *Der fliegende Holländer* for Fulham Opera.

Operatic roles include **Fasolt** *Das Rheingold* and **Creon** *Oedipus Rex* (Teatro Nacional de São Carlos); **The King** *Aida* (Bregenz Festival); **Reinmar** *Tannhäuser* (Greek National Opera); **Frazier** *Porgy and Bess* (Opéra de Lyon and the Edinburgh International Festival); **Caronte** *La favola d'Orfeo* (English National Opera and Opera Zuid); **Fasolt** *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (Teatro Massimo di Palermo); **The Doctor** *Punch and Judy* (Casa da Música, Porto); **Elder Ott** *Susannah* (Angers Nantes Opéra); **Porgy** *Porgy and Bess* (TCC Productions, Lisbon); **Méphistophélès** *Faust* (Anna Livia International Opera Festival); **Tonio** *Pagliacci*, **Jorg** *Stiffelio* and **Bertrand** *Iolanta*, **Oroveso** *Norma* and **Nourabad** *Les pêcheurs de perles*, **Il Re** *Aida* (all for Opera Holland Park); **Commendatore** *Don Giovanni* (Mid Wales Opera); **Bosun** *Billy Budd* (Royal Opera House, Covent Garden); **Dosifey** *Khovanshina*, **Iago** *Otello*, **Don Pizarro** *Fidelio*, **First Apprentice** *Wozzeck*, **Abbot** *Curlew River*, **Pluto** *Il ballo delle ingrate*, **Neptune** *The Return of Ulysses*, **Commendatore** *Don Giovanni*, and **Voice of Neptune** *Idomeneo* (all for Birmingham Opera Company); **Don Pasquale**, **Fiesco** *Simon Boccanegra*, **Doctor Bartolo** *The Marriage of Figaro* and **Colline** *La bohème* (all for English Touring Opera); and **Zuniga** *Carmen*, **Mandryka** *Arabella*, and **Speaker**, **Second Armed Man** / **Second Priest** *The Magic Flute* (all for Opera North).

In contemporary opera he has performed **The Caterpillar** *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (Opera Holland Park); **King** in Luke Bedford's *Seven Angels* (The Opera Group); **Asantehene** and **Second Messenger** in Jonathan Dove's *The Two Hearts of Kwasi Boachi* (Opera OT); **The Elder** *The Country of the Blind* by Mark-Anthony Turnage (Aldeburgh Festival / ENO Contemporary Opera Studio); and **Parlaine** *Palace in the Sky* (ENO Baylis).

He made his debut at the BBC Proms as the **Abbot** *Curlew River* (Birmingham Opera Company). Other major concert engagements include the concert version of Gershwin *Porgy and Bess* (Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra and Royal Scottish National Orchestra); *Carmina Burana* (Royal Festival Hall); *A Child of Our Time* (City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra); and *Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezin* in Durham Cathedral. His concert repertoire also includes **Pater Profundus** in Mahler *Symphony No. 8*, Walton *Belshazzar's Feast*, Rossini *Stabat Mater*, and Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony*.

Recording and film credits include **Second Armed Man** in Kenneth Brannagh's film of *The Magic Flute*; **Harašta** in Geoff Dunbar's animated version of *The Cunning Little Vixen* and Bernstein *White House Cantata* with the London Symphony Orchestra under Kent Nagano (Deutsche Grammophon).

In the current season Keel performs **Aye** Akhnaten and understudies **Porgy** *Porgy & Bess* for English National Opera. In summer 2019 he returns to Opera Holland Park as **Baldassare** in *L'arlesiana*.

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