

Vocal Masterclass with Sir Thomas Allen

Iain McGlashan Visiting Artist

Christopher Nairn **Baritone**

David Horton **Baritone**

Arshak Kuzikyan **Baritone**

Julia Lynch **Piano**



Friday 13 February 2015
Stevenson Hall
3.00pm

Sir Thomas Allen **Baritone**

Sir Thomas Allen is an established star of the great opera houses of the world. At the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where in 2011 he celebrated the fortieth anniversary of his debut with the company, he has sung over fifty roles. The same year he also celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of his debut at the Metropolitan Opera, New York.

He has been particularly acclaimed for his Billy Budd, Pelléas, Eugene Onegin, Ulisse and Beckmesser, as well as the great Mozart roles of Count Almaviva, Don Alfonso, Papageno, Guglielmo and, of course, Don Giovanni. His recent engagements have included the title role in *Gianni Schicchi* for Los Angeles Opera and at the Spoleto Festival; the title role in *Sweeney Todd*, Beckmesser (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*), Faninal (*Der Rosenkavalier*), Prosdócimo (*Il turco in Italia*), Music Master (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), Peter (*Hänsel und Gretel*) and Don Alfonso at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; Eisenstein (*Die Fledermaus*), Don Alfonso, Ulisse and Don Giovanni at the Bayerische Staatsoper; Faninal at the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia; Eisenstein at the Glyndebourne Festival; Don Alfonso at the Dallas Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago and at the Salzburg Easter and Summer Festivals; Forester (*The Cunning Little Vixen*) at the San Francisco Opera and Beckmesser, Don Alfonso and Music Master at the Metropolitan Opera, New York.

Opera appearances this season include Baron Mirko Zeta (*The Merry Widow*) at the Metropolitan Opera, New York and Poeta (*Il turco in Italia*) at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Equally renowned on the concert platform, he appears in recital in the United Kingdom, throughout Europe, in Australia and America, and has appeared with the world's great orchestras and conductors. The greatest part of his repertoire has been extensively recorded with such distinguished names as Solti, Levine, Marriner, Haitink, Rattle, Sawallisch and Muti.

He made a triumphant directing debut in 2003 with *Albert Herring* at the Royal College of Music and he has recently directed tremendously successful productions of *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan tutte* for Samling Opera at The Sage, Gateshead. He made an equally acclaimed USA directing debut with *Le nozze di Figaro* for Arizona Opera in 2006 and has since returned to direct *Così* at the Boston Lyric Opera and *Don Pasquale* at the Chicago Lyric Opera. He is a regular guest at Scottish Opera where his productions include *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Die Zauberflöte* and, most recently *Don Giovanni*.

He is Chancellor of Durham University. His many honours include the title of Bayerischer Kammersänger awarded by the Bayerische Staatsoper, an honorary doctorate from the Royal Academy of Music, Prince Consort Professor of the Royal College of Music, the Hambro Visiting Professorship of Opera Studies at Oxford University, Fellowship of the Royal College of Music, Fellowship of the University of Sunderland, M.A. from Newcastle University and a Doctorate of Music from Durham University and the University of Birmingham. In the New Year's Honours of 1989 he was created a Commander of the British Empire and in the 1999 Queen's Birthday Honours he was made a Knight Bachelor. Among his proudest achievements is having a Channel Tunnel locomotive named after him; and most recently, being awarded the Queen's Medal for Music 2013.

Thomas Allen's first book, *Foreign Parts - A Singer's Journal* was published in 1993. His film credits include *Mrs Henderson Presents* and *The Real Don Giovanni*.

Christopher Nairn **Baritone**

Christopher is in his first year at the Alexander Gibson Opera School at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He is the recipient of the ABRSM award and studies with Scott Johnson.

Christopher's Opera roles at college include Luther *The Tales of Hoffmann* and Pásek *The Cunning Little Vixen*. Roles in opera scenes included Nick Shadow *The Rake's Progress*, Lesbo *Agrippina*, Demetrius *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Don Giovanni *Don Giovanni*, The Count *Le Nozze di Figaro* and Dr Malatesta *Don Pasquale*.

Christopher has participated in masterclasses with Malcolm Martineau, Sir Thomas Allen, Roderick Williams and Paul Kiesgen and was the winner of the Frank Spedding Lieder Prize.

For *Opera Bohemia*, Christopher has sung the roles of Schaunard in *La Boheme*, Normanno in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Betto in *Gianni Schicchi*. He sang the roles of Marcello in *La Boheme* and Silvio in *Pagliacci* with Fife Opera in 2012/2013. Professional chorus work includes *Othello* *Götterdämmerung* and *La Boheme* for Opera North and *Der Fliegende Holländer* with Scottish Opera.

Christopher has extensive experience on the concert and oratorio platform. He has performed for the BBC SSO singing George Butterworth's *A Shropshire Lad*. He was also the baritone soloist in the 2009 Military Tattoo. A particular highlight for Christopher was performing with Bob Chilcott at the 2012 Waverly Care Concert of *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Vaughn Williams.

Alongside performing, Christopher often works with Scottish Opera's Education Department as a soloist and vocal coach. He has been involved with projects such as the Leverhulme Composers 2013/14, Alzheimers 2013/14, AerialO 2013/14 and Connect 2014, and sung the title role of Misper with them. He is also a choral scholar at Glasgow Cathedral and soloist on their 2013 CD *Christmas at Glasgow Cathedral*. Christopher is very grateful for the Caird Scholarship, the ABRSM and the RCS for their continued support.

David Horton **Baritone**

David Horton is a second year Masters Student studying at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland under the tutelage of Scott Johnson and is a grateful recipient of a scholarship from the RCS Trust. Next year he will be entering the Alexander Gibson Opera School to further his vocal education here at the RCS.

David Graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music in 2010 with an honours degree in Vocal and Opera Studies and whilst there was awarded the William McLeod Johnstone Prize for Male Singers in 2010. After graduating David was invited to spend a year studying in Australia under the tuition of Dr Rowena Cowley in Sydney where he took part in a masterclass with Dame Lauris Elms for Artsong New South Wales and was also highly commended in the male voice section of the Sydney Eisteddfod. He has also participated in masterclasses with Roderick Williams, Anne le Bozec and Lisa Milne.

Previous Operatic Roles include Dandini in Rossini's *La Cenerentola* with Jackdaws opera, Dr Falke in Johan Strauss' *Die Fledermaus* with the RNCM Opera and Ben Budge in Britten's *The Beggars Opera* with the European Opera Centre. While at the RNCM he also performed the roles of Maximilien in *Candide* by Bernstien and L'horloge Comtoise from Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*.

Upcoming Operatic engagements include Le Gendarme in Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, Sir Hugh Evans in Vaughan Williams' *Sir John in love*, both at the RCS.

David is also a keen recitalist and has given performances at The Royal Overseas League, the Scottish Arts Club, Haddo House Music Festival, and the Aberdeen International Youth Festival, where he was a young artist, to name a few.

Arshak Kuzikyan **Baritone**

Armenian bass Arshak Kuzikyan graduated with a Master's degree from the Yerevan State Conservatory in 2005 and completed the Continuing Education course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2013. Arshak is currently back at RCS to do a Master's degree at the Alexander Gibson Opera School under the tutelage of Scott Johnson. Arshak is generously supported by The Hamilton Duval Music Scholarship, The Hon. Isabel Catto, OBE, Memorial Scholarship and The John and Caroline Sibbald Scholarship. His previous opera roles include Leporello, Don Giovanni (Armenian Opera Theatre), Dulcamara, L'elisir d'amore and Raimondo, Lucia di Lammermoor (Yerevan Opera Studio), Tempo, Nettuno, Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria (RCS), Publio, La clemenza di Tito, (RCS) Rambaldo, La Rondine (RCS) Figaro, Le nozze di Figaro in Trentino music festival (Italy). Arshak's prizes include first prize at Prael Lisitian and Tatevik Sazandaryan (Armenian), Russian Song Prize 2013 (RCS) First Prize at Ye Cronies opera award 2014 (RCS). He is a scholarship holder from George Solti Academia and had the privilege of working with Dennis O'Neil, Angela Gheorghiu and Richard Bonyngé in Castiglione della Pescaia (Italy) in 2012. Arshak is also a Samling Artist 2014 where he worked with Sir Thomas Allen and Malcolm Martineau.

Forthcoming Musical Events

BBC Radio 3: Poulenc 50 Years On with Nicole Cabell

Wednesday 4 March / Stevenson Hall / 7.30pm

Programme to include:

POULENC	Banalités
RAVEL	Shéhérazade
POULENC	Fiançailles pour rire
RAVEL	Cinq Mélodies Populaires Grecques

One of the great young singers of her generation, Nicole Cabell was propelled into superstardom upon winning the 2005 Cardiff Singer of the Year. She has a great passion for French music, and is joined for this special programme for Radio 3 of Poulenc and Faure by friend of RCS, pianist Simon Lepper.

BBC Radio 3: Poulenc 50 Years On with Jonathan Lemalu

Friday 13 March / Stevenson Hall / 1.00pm

Programme to include:

POULENC	Chansons pour enfants
FAURÉ	L'horizon chimérique
RAVEL	Don Quichotte à Dulcinée
POULENC	Chansons villageoises

We continue our series for Radio 3 exploring that most idiosyncratic of composers Francis Poulenc with the New Zealander bass baritone Jonathan Lemalu accompanied by Joseph Middleton.