



Rayfield Artists

Simon Kirkbride *Bass-Baritone*



Simon Kirkbride studied at the Royal College of Music and upon graduation he was awarded The Presidents Rose Bowl, the highest award given to a student by the RCM.

Simon Kirkbride made his operatic debut in 1997 singing *Publio La clemenza di Tito* for Welsh National Opera, conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras. Further debuts included *Morales Carmen* at Scottish Opera, *Figaro Le nozze di Figaro* for Glyndebourne Touring Opera, *Masetto Don Giovanni* in Pisa, Vichy, Cremona, Treviso, Mantova and Como, *Lycomedes* in Handel's *Deidamia* for the London Handel Festival, and *Thaddeus* in the premiere of Birtwistle's *The Last Supper* at the Staatsoper Berlin conducted by Daniel Barenboim, a role he repeated at the Glyndebourne Festival in 2001. Other roles at this time included *Leporello Don Giovanni*, *Mr Redburn Billy Budd*, *Count Almaviva Le nozze di Figaro*, *Don Alfonso Così fan tutte*, *Zuniga Carmen*, *Minskman* in Jonathan Dove's *Flight*,

Garibaldo Rodelinda and *Bartolo Il barbiere di Siviglia*. In 2004 Simon Kirkbride made his debut at Festival d'Aix-en-Provence singing *Priest of Jupiter* in Luc Bondy's production of *Hercules*, conducted by William Christie which was later revived for Opéra National de Paris at the Palais Garnier, Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York, the Vienna Festival, the Barbican (London) and again for Netherlands Oper, this time conducted by Christopher Moulds. He made his debut at Vlaamse Opera singing *Ratcliffe* in the world premiere of Battistelli's *Richard III*, returning later to sing *Cadmus Semele*. Later that year sang his first *Musiklehrer Ariadne auf Naxos* for Norske Opera, and also made his debut in Luxembourg singing *Publio*.

Recent performances include *Starveling A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Glyndebourne, *Voice of Neptune Idomeneo* for Les Arts Florissants in Paris and New York, *Pilatus Johannes Passion* directed by Robert Wilson conducted by Emmanuel Haïm at the Châtelet, *Dr Bartolo Le nozze di Figaro* conducted by Daniel Harding at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence and *Theseus A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Opéra de Lyon.

On the concert platform Simon has sung most of the major works of Bach, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Britten, Elgar, Walton, Mendelssohn and Beethoven, and has performed with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Calgary Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, Les Arts Florissants, Le Concert d'Astrée, The King's Consort, Florilegium, Haydn Festival Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, Norwegian Baroque Orchestra, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Oslo Baroque Orchestra and London Baroque.

Recordings include Saint-Saëns's *Requiem* with the London Philharmonic on Cala and *Pippo Il tutore burlato* by Soler with Les Talens Lyriques and Christophe Rousset for Decca. He appears as *Priest of Jupiter Hercules* with Les Arts Florissants and William Christie in the Opéra National de Paris production recorded for DVD by Bel Air Classiques.

Recent and future highlights include *Theseus A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Athens, *Sprecher Die Zauberflöte* for Glyndebourne, *Nazarene Salome* and *Hobson Peter Grimes* for Grand Théâtre de Genève, *Thaddeus* in concert performances of *The Last Supper* in Milan and Turin, Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with Collegium Vocale Gent and Philippe Herreweghe, Mozart's *Mass in C minor* with the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie, Bach's *Mass in B minor* with Nicholas Kraemer in Norway, Handel's *Theodora* with Paul McCreech and the Gabrieli Consort & Players, and Handel's *Alexander's Feast* with the Ulster Orchestra.

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