biography

BENEDICT NELSON - BARITONE

Hailed by Rupert Christiansen in the *Daily Telegraph* as Best Newcomer in his "Opera Highlights of 2009", British baritone Benedict Nelson is one of the most exciting singers of his generation and has attracted comparisons to Gerald Finley and Simon Keenlyside among others.

Born in London, Nelson studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the National Opera Studio. In 2007 he won second prize in both the Kathleen Ferrier Awards and the Guildhall Gold Medal at the young age of 23. Currently he is an inaugural English National Opera Harewood Artist.

Benedict Nelson has amassed a considerable number of operatic roles including Aeneas *Dido and Aeneas*, Count Almaviva and Figaro *Le nozze di Figaro*, Masetto and Don Giovanni *Don Giovanni*, Valentin *Faust*, Marcello *La Bohème*, Demetrius *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Sid *Albert Herring*, Christian *Un ballo in maschera*, and Tarquinius and Junius *Rape of Lucretia*. Operatic engagements last season included the title role in David Alden's new production *of Billy Budd* and Belcore *The Elixir of Love* both for ENO.

A protégée of Sir Thomas Allen and a Samling Foundation scholar, Nelson made his debut with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Jiří Bělohlávek in 2010, singing Brahms' Requiem. He has performed at many prestigious concert venues including Wigmore Hall, Verbier Festival, Cadogan Hall, Royal Albert Hall, King's Place, Snape Maltings, St John's Smith Square and St Martin-in-the-Fields under conductors including Sir Neville Marriner, Sir Roger Norrington, David Parry, Thomas Zehetmair, Andris Nelsons and Paul McCreesh. Most recently he appeared with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, the Utah Symphony Orchestra, Basel Chamber Orchestra, RTÉ Orchestra and the Orchestre de l'Opéra de Rouen. Last season he also appeared with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in their concert performances of *Tristan und Isolde* singing the roles of Melot and Steersman.

Other performances over the past seasons have included his debut recital at the Cheltenham Festival, Britten's *Songs and Proverbs of William Blake* at Snape Maltings with Malcolm Martineau (recorded in 2010 and released by Onyx to critical acclaim), Silvano *Un Ballo in Maschera* for Opera Holland Park, concerts with the Classical Opera Company, *The Tender Land* for Opéra de Lyon, the world premiere of *The Lion's Face* at the Royal Opera House's Linbury Studio and on tour, Tarquinius for Opéra Anger Nantes and Aeneas for the prestigious Verbier Festival in Switzerland.

In the 2012/13 season Benedict Nelson sings Algernon Moncrieff in the staged premiere of Gerald Barry's new opera *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Royal Opera House Linbury Studio and Stranger *The Lady from the Sea* for Scottish Opera. At English National Opera he appears in *The Pilgrim's Progress* and as Figaro in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. He has concert engagements with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Aldeburgh Festival and Ulster Orchestra and makes his debut with BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and Donald Runnicles singing Steersman *Tristan and Isolde*. On the recital platform he will make his debut at the prestigious Leeds Lieder and will appear in an afternoon recital at the Wigmore Hall.

Benedict Nelson is represented worldwide by Intermusica.
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