biography

GEORGE VON BERGEN – BARITONE

Over the past year George von Bergen has quickly established himself in Europe as an artist of formidable stage presence. It has been said of his recent Ford *Falstaff* that he owns a "complexity and dark richness to his tone [that] allows him to convey an extraordinary range of emotions". The 2011/12 season has seen him impress in debuts as both *Hamlet* (Croatian National Opera) and Ned Keene *Peter Grimes* (La Scala). On his return to the UK, von Bergen gave "stand-out" performances as Ford at Holland Park and as Herald/Lord Hate-good *The Pilgrim's Progress* at English National Opera.

Von Bergen studied at the University of Bristol, the Royal Academy of Music and the National Opera Studio in London, going on to win the Royal Overseas League singing competition. Whilst still at the National Opera Studio, he performed the role of Edward in the stage première of Elizabeth Maconchy's *The Sofa* with Independent Opera (Chandos, February 2009). He also took the role of Marcello in the Deutsche Grammophon/MR Productions film of *La Bohème* alongside Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazon. In addition, he performed with Welsh National Opera, Opera North, Scottish Opera and Garsington Opera, and made his BBC Proms debut with the BBC Symphony Orchestra in Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music* with Sir Andrew Davis.

Highlights of the 2011/12 season included the title role of Ambroise Thomas' *Hamlet* in a new production at the Croatian National Theatre in Zagreb conducted by Hervé Niquet; Ford in a new production of *Falstaff* at Opera Holland Park; and his debut at La Scala, Milan as Ned Keene in Richard Jones' acclaimed new production of *Peter Grimes*, soon to be released commercially on DVD.

The 2010/11 season saw von Bergen make his English National Opera debut as Schaunard *La Bohème* and return to Opera Holland Park to sing Count Almaviva *Le nozze di Figaro*. Other recent performances have seen von Bergen appear as Marcello *La Bohème* and Ostasio *Francesca da Rimini* at Opera Holland Park, Demetrius *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Garsington Opera and at Longborough, the title role of *Don Giovanni* at Clonter Festival Opera, Marcello in the Torre del Lago Puccini Festival's production of *La Bohème* at the Abu Dahbi Festival, Ned Keene in Willy Decker's acclaimed production of *Peter Grimes* in Turin, and Beaumarchais in the award-winning European première of *Ghosts of Versailles* at Wexford Opera.

On the recital and concert platform, von Bergen has performed extensively in Britain and Europe. Oratorio performances also include Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Mendelssohn *Elijah,* Bach *St John Passion*, Puccini *Messa di Gloria* and Fauré Requiem.

Highlights of the 2012/13 season include *The Pilgrim's Progress* at English National Opera, Belcore *L'elisir d'amore* for Opera Holland Park and Haydn's *Nelson Mass* with The Northern Symphonia. George von Bergen is an ENO Harewood Artist.

George von Bergen is represented by Intermusica.
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