biography

JACQUES IMBRAILO - BARITONE

Hailed in a recent interview with the *Times* as “the hottest young baritone on the block”, South African baritone Jacques Imbrailo “shows a knack for shape-shifting into characters… and like the best baritones, he can effortlessly steal the limelight from a starry tenor”. Having studied at the Royal College of Music under Ryland Davies, he went on to win the Audience Prize at the 2007 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition.

Imbrailo was a member of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House from 2006-8, where his roles included the title role of *Owen Wingrave*, Demetrius *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Morales *Carmen*, Marullo *Rigoletto*, Scythian *Iphigénie en Tauride*, Flemish Deputy *Don Carlos* and Wigmaker *Ariadne auf Naxos.*

In 2010 he made his Glyndebourne Festival debut, singing the title role of *Billy Budd* in Michael Grandage’s acclaimed new production, conducted by Sir Mark Elder. His performance won rave reviews, with Andrew Clark of the *Financial Times* pronouncing him “the finest Billy I have heard – lusty, virile, sensitive and moving”.

Other recent operatic engagements include Pelléas *Pelléas et Mélisande* (Essen Opera); Tarquinius *The Rape of Lucretia* (in Florence and in Houston); Aeneas *Dido & Aeneas* (Opera di Roma); Count Almaviva *Le nozze di Figaro* (Royal Opera House, Welsh National Opera and Opéra de Lille); the leading baritone role in Judith Weir’s new commission for the Royal Opera House, *Miss Fortune* (which premièred at the Bregenz Festspiele); Figaro *The Barber of Seville* (Welsh National Opera); Malatesta *Don Pasquale* (Royal Opera House); Guglielmo *Cosi fan Tutte* (Opera Colorado, Glyndebourne Touring Opera and Opera North); Schaunard *La Bohème* (Royal Opera House); and a reprise of *Billy Budd* (de Nederlandse Opera).

Concert performances include Christ *The Apostles* with the Hallé and Sir Mark Elder at the BBC Proms and *Carmina Burana* with the New York Philharmonic under Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, as well as Bach’s *St John Passion*, Handel’s *Messiah*, Brahms’ Requiem, Fauré’s Requiem and Duruflé’s Requiem. He has given solo lieder recitals at the Wigmore Hall, St John’s Smith Square and the Het Concertgebouw, Amsterdam, and performed in concert at the Verbier Festival, Royal Albert Hall and Southbank Centre.

Highlights in the 2013-14 season include the title role of *Don Giovanni* (Scottish Opera); Billy Budd in New York, and Valentin in Gounod’s *Faust* in Baden-Baden.

Jacques Imbrailo is represented by Intermusica.
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