

Hubert Francis

Tenor



" The tenor of Hubert Francis was delectably slimy and slithery as Shuysky ... This daring and accomplished semi-staging, strong as a shot of vodka."

Hilary Finch, *The Times*, 4 May 2015

" Hubert Francis is a brilliantly nasty Spoletta."

Anna Picard, *The Times*, 11 January 2016

UK-based Australian tenor, Hubert (Hugh) Francis begins the 2018-19 season in the role of Herod *Salome* at Israeli Opera. The artist travels to Helsinki to sing to role of Hauptmann in a new production of *Wozzeck* at Finnish National Opera before returning to The Royal Opera House Covent Garden to revive his appearances as Spoletta *Tosca*.

Highlights of recent seasons include his appearance with Karita Mattila as the Hauptmann at Helsinki Festival; the role of Herod at State Opera of South Australia; and as Chairman Mao *Nixon in China* for Opera Wide Open's inaugural production in Dublin. He won outstanding reviews for his performance as Shuisky *Boris Godunov* with the Philharmonia Orchestra under the baton of Jakub Hrůša.

Enjoying a long relationship with The Royal Opera House Covent Garden, the artist began his career there in 2002-04 as a member of the young artist programme, appearing as Male Chorus *The Rape of Lucretia*, Harlekin *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, Trin *La Fanciulla del West*, Third Jew/Second Jew *Salome* and Loge (c) *Das Rheingold* in Keith Warner's recent *Ring Cycle*. Since then his ROH appearances have been frequent, and include First Croupier *The Gambler*, Toby Higgins *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, Der Bucklige *Frau ohne Schatten*, Shuisky (c) *Boris Godunov* and Lajos *Oedipe*. Kuzmic (c) *From the House of the Dead*, Coachman and Workman and Zinovy (c) *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*. The artist recently appeared in a new production of *The Nose* and later took on the challenging parts of Lucas and Raoul (c) *The Exterminating Angel*. Perhaps his most notable appearance is as Spoletta, a role he sings often, and which can be seen on DVD in Covent Garden's new production starring Angela Gheorghiu, Jonas Kaufmann and Bryn Terfel.

International roles include Yannakos in David Pountney's production of *The Greek Passion* at the Janáček Theatre in Brno; Shabby Peasant *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* at Canadian Opera Company; Terry Bond *Playing Away*, Ferdinand *Karl V* at the Bregenz Festival, and Kedril/Hlas *From the House of the Dead* at Teatro Massimo in Palermo; at Dutch National Opera he sang roles such as First Croupier *The Gambler* (in a new production by Andrea Breth), Bear Handler in *The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh and the Maiden Fevroniya*, and as Thibault in a new production of Verdi's *Les Vêpres Siciliennes* directed by Christof Loy, a role he repeated at the Grand Théâtre de Genève where

he also sang Goro *Madama Butterfly* and Gamekeeper *Rusalka*.

Further past appearances include his portrayal as Vitek *The Makropoulos Case*, a role and house debut at Finnish National Opera, followed by a tour of Germany and North America with London's Philharmonia Orchestra as Drum Major *Wozzeck* under the baton of Esa-Pekka Salonen, and his appearance at Singapore Opera in his debut as Herod. Other UK credits include the Drum Major in Richard Jones' award-winning production of *Wozzeck*, Chekalinsky *The Queen of Spades* both for Welsh National Opera; Don Basilio *Le nozze di Figaro* and The Marquis Grioux *The Gambler* (André de Ridder) at Grange Park Opera; Ivan *The Nose* for The Opera Group and *Burning Waters* at Buxton Festival.

Always electric in concert, Mr. Francis sang the role of Junge Diener *Elektra* with Opera North (Richard Farnes), Florestan *Fidelio* with The Edinburgh Symphony Orchestra; Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; Beethoven's *An die ferne Geliebte*, First Jew *Salome* with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, Vaughan Williams' *Songs of Travel*, Finzi's *A Young Man's Exhortation*, Dvořák's *The Gypsy Songs* and ROH2's highly acclaimed *Nitro Project* in The Crush Room at Royal Opera House.

EXCLUSIVE INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Artist Manager: Deborah Sanders
deborah.sanders@rayfieldallied.com

Biography valid until 1 Sep 2019
For updated versions please contact
nathan.murphy@rayfieldallied.com