

# Olafur Sigurdarson

Baritone



“ But of course it is around *Wozzeck* and *Marie* that everything rotates, and Icelandic baritone Olafur Sigurdarson, who was a very good *Rigoletto* in Helsinki a year and a half ago, is a sensitive, vulnerable and brooding *Wozzeck* – who also has the animal ruthlessness in his attitude towards *Marie* when he realises her deceit.”

**Göran Forsling, Seen and Heard International, 27 March 2019**

“ Icelandic baritone Olafur Sigurdarson made a splendid U.S. debut as *Falstaff* himself. In addition to a fine voice, he was tremendously effective swinging back and forth from vanity to self-pity, and from revelation to debauchery.”

**Omaha World-Herald, Drew Neneman, 10 February 2018**

Icelandic baritone **Olafur Sigurdarson** begins the 2019-20 season at Wexford Festival Opera making his house debut in the role of Sancho *Don Quichotte*. He returns to Prague National Theatre following his great success in the role of Telramund *Lohengrin* in Eva Wagner's new production, and in the UK he makes his house debut at English National Opera in the role of Miller *Luisa Miller*.

Last season Mr Sigurdarson returned to the Finnish National Opera for his debut in the title role *Wozzeck* which proved to be a great fit and a wonderful success for the artist. He also revived his performance in the title role *Der fliegende Holländer*, a role he inaugurated the season previously when the production was new. At Gothenburg Opera he sang the role of Alberich *Das Rheingold* under the baton of Evan Register in a new production by Stephen Langridge.

Recent highlights include unexpectedly making his US debut in the title role of *Falstaff* at Opera Omaha followed immediately by his appearance as *Rigoletto* at Minnesota Opera and further performances in the title role of *Falstaff* at Opera Colorado. He also sang *Rigoletto* – one of his signature roles – at Finnish National Opera; in his native country he presented the role of Scarpia *Tosca* at Icelandic Opera and at the Danish National Opera he appeared in the role of The Colonel in the world premiere of *The Brothers* directed by Kaspar Holten.

Formerly a principal artist at Saarländisches Staatstheater Saarbrücken, roles there include Balstrode *Peter Grimes*, which he sang previously with great success at the Reykjavik Arts Festival with Stuart Skelton, and the title roles of *Falstaff*, *Rigoletto*, *Macbeth* and *Simon Boccanegra*, Scarpia *Tosca*, Renato *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Jochanaan *Salome* (for which he received the Sponsors Prize), Don Carlo *La Forza del Destino*, Four Villains *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Méphistophélès *La Damnation de Faust*, Tonio *I Pagliacci* and General Groves *Doctor Atomic*. His performances in German repertoire won him many accolades for roles such as Klingsor *Parsifal*, Pizarro *Fidelio*, Barak *Frau ohne Schatten*, and recently the title role *Der fliegende Holländer* which brought him much critical success and a coveted membership to the local Wagner Society.

Other successful engagements as a guest artist include Iago in Theatre Basel's new *Otello*. At Theater Darmstadt he appeared as *Macbeth* and he made role debuts as Sancho in a new production at Danish National Opera, and as General Groves *Doctor Atomic* at Finnish National Opera, and at Staatstheater Karlsruhe. Further roles include Michele *Il Tabarro* at Volksoper Wien; the title role *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Opera Grange Park, and Ford *Falstaff* and *Macbeth* at Opera North.

Much in demand as *Rigoletto*, Olafur appeared in the role at Volksoper Vienna, Staatsoper Hannover, Icelandic Opera, where his portrayal won him the Icelandic Music Award for "Singer of the Year" in 2010, and at Opera Holland Park in London, where he was awarded the Audience Price, not only for his performances of *Rigoletto* but also of *Falstaff*, which he sang there in a later season. Once a regular at Opera Holland Park, he also joined the company for the title role *Macbeth*, Rafaele *I gioielli della Madonna*, Renato, Jack Rance *La fanciulla del West*, Gerard *Andrea Chenier*, Scarpia *Tosca*, Manfredo *L'amore dei tre Re* and Barnaba *La Gioconda* among other roles.

Turning to the German repertoire, Mr Sigurdarson has triumphed as Alberich *Das Rheingold*, *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung* in Darmstadt, in his debut in concert with Dortmund Philharmonic as Wanderer *Siegfried* and as Telramund *Lohengrin* in Wiesbaden, Basel and Regensburg.

Olafur's many concert appearances include Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with Wuppertal Sinfonieorchester, and with Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana and Vladimir Ashkenazy for the inauguration of the city's new cultural centre, LAC; on tour in Japan with the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, and at the Stuttgarter Liederhalle with the Stuttgart Philharmonic Orchestra. Other concert appearances include *Kindertotenlieder* with the Icelandic Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Rumon Gamba.

He sang *Carmina Burana* in Warwick under Paul McGrath, *Sea Symphony* of Vaughn Williams with the Milton Keynes Chorale, Haydn's *Creation* for the Covent Garden Festival, and Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* and Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death*, both with the ISO conducted by Vladimir Ashkenazy. He appeared at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, on BBC Radio Scotland, and on numerous occasions on Icelandic Radio and Television.

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