

# Omar Ebrahim

Baritone



“ That ever-remarkable baritone Omar Ebrahim, always sensitive to text, had chilling authority as the Officer”  
**Fiona Maddocks, The Observer**

Omar Ebrahim became a chorister at the newly built Coventry Cathedral in 1964 and his subsequent exposure to a vibrant cultural life led him to study singing at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He served his performing apprenticeship at the Royal Shakespeare Company and in the Glyndebourne chorus, performing the role of **Schaunard** *La Bohème* for Glyndebourne Touring Opera.

He has been involved with many contemporary opera and concert performances including Nigel Osborne's *The Electrification of the Soviet Union*, Tippett's *New Year* and Birtwistle's *The Second Mrs. Kong* for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Berio's *Un re in ascolto*, Birtwistle's *Gawain* for the Royal Opera House, Hans Jürgen von Bose's *63 Dream Palace* and Peter Lieberon's *King*

*Gesar* for the Munich Biennale and Tanglewood, Stephen Oliver's *Beauty and the Beast* for City of Birmingham Touring Opera, Nigel Osborne's *Terrible Mouth* and Jonathan Dove's *Siren Song* for Almeida Opera and *Punch and Judy* for Basel Opera. For Opera Factory he has appeared in roles ranging from **Punch** *Punch & Judy* though to **Don Giovanni**. He sang in the highly acclaimed performance of Birtwistle's *The Mask of Orpheus* at the South Bank Centre's Birtwistle Festival. He has also sung concert performances of Philip Glass's *Satyagraha* at SBC London and the title role in Laman's *Agamemnon* at the Holland Festival. He sang in John Casken's *God's Liar* for Almeida Opera and La Monnaie Brussels, the premiere of Peter Eotvos's *Angels in America* at the Chatelet Theatre Paris and Jonathan Lunn's *Tattoo* for GTO.

Other roles have included **Schaunard** *La Bohème* and **Tobias** *Sweeney Todd* for New Israeli Opera, **Bartolo** *Marriage of Figaro* for English Touring Opera, **Escamillo** *Carmen* and *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* for Opera Theatre Company Dublin, the lead role in Marschner's *The Vampyr* for BBC Television and Edward Rushton's *Babur In London*. He has performed *The Rise & Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, *Iolanthe* and *Die Fledermaus* for Scottish Opera and the title role in Richard Jones acclaimed production of Verdi's *Macbeth* for Opera Go Round.

Closely associated with Gyorgy Ligeti's *Aventures, nouvelles aventures*, he has performed the piece to critical acclaim with ensembles worldwide, including Pierre Boulez and the Ensemble Intercontemporain and Esa Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, also recording the work with Salonen and the Philharmonia for Sony. More recently he has performed *Aventures* at the BBC Proms and in the Lincoln Center New York.


Other ensembles that Omar Ebrahim has worked with include Ensemble Modern, London Sinfonietta, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia, musikFabrik, Bochum Symphoniker, Stavanger Symphony, Netherlands Vara Radio Orchestra, Ensemble Mosaik, Esbjerg Ensemble and Ensemble Umze at the Huddersfield Festival.

As an actor he has performed Schoenberg's *Ode to Napoleon* at the Salzburg Festival as well as at the Royal Festival Hall with the London Philharmonic, and Strauss's melodrama on Tennyson's Enoch Arden for IRCAM in Paris, as well as *A Survivor from Warsaw* (Schoenberg)

and *The Raft of the Medusa* (Henze) with BBC Symphony Orchestra. He also played Archie Cannibal in *Chips with Everything* at Leeds Playhouse, Alan Yentob in new musical *Committee* at the Donmar Warehouse and Danaos/Egyptian Herald in *The Suppliant Women* with the Actors Touring Company in Edinburgh, Dublin and at the Young Vic.

Recent successes include performances of Enno Poppe's new commission *IQ – Enrie Testbatterie* at the Schwetzingen Festival, as well as premiere's of *The Navigator* by Liza Lim with Elision Ensemble in Brisbane, Melbourne, Amsterdam and Moscow, Kris Defoort's *The House of the Sleeping Beauties* in Brussels, Paris and Amsterdam, *Skellig* by Todd Machover at The Sage Gateshead, and Enno Poppe's *Arbeit Nahrung Wohnung* at the Munich Biennale, Vienna, Stuttgart, Venice, Madrid and Berlin. He sang in Catherine Kontz's *Neige* for Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg.

Recent concerts include **Caleb Raven** *Yan Tan Tethera* as part of the Birtwistle at 80 Festival at the Barbican Centre. He also sang Philip Glass's *In the Penal Colony* at the Linbury Theatre Covent Garden, subsequently recorded for CD release. Other recent engagements include collaborations with Ensemble Mosaik, an appearance at the Internationale Stiftung Mozarteum in Salzburg with MusikFabrik as part of their DIALOGUE Festival, the role of **Narrator** in *A Flowering Tree* by John Adams for Göteborg Opera and *House of the Sleeping Beauties* by Yasunari Kawabata and Kris Defoort in Japan.

Highlights of the 2018/19 season include the title role in Tod Machover's *Schoenberg in Hollywood* for Boston Lyric Opera, *Aventures, nouvelle aventures* at Bergen International Festival and Olga Neuwirth's *The Outcast* at Hamburg Elbphilharmonie. 

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