

# Sam Furness

Tenor



**“Furness, however, is terrific in the immensely difficult title role. Gauchely attractive, he charts Hoffmann’s descent from naive idealism to self-destructive despair with compelling veracity, and sings it all with great ease and impeccable style... it’s Furness’s night.”**

*Guardian*

Described as having “all the makings of a star” in the *Guardian* and hailed as “a lyric tenor clearly going places” in *Opera* magazine, tenor Sam Furness has sung major roles for Scottish Opera, Garsington Opera and the Teatro Real, Madrid, always earning praise for his compelling acting and innate musicality.

In the 2019-20 season he makes his house and role debut at Opernhaus Zürich (Albert Gregor *The Makropulos Case*) and house debuts at L’Opera di Roma (Kudryas *Katya Kabanova*) and Savonlinna Opera Festival (Shepherd *Krol Roger*). He also returns to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (*Death in Venice* and *White King / Mad Hatter Alice’s Adventures Under Ground*).

Highlights of the 2018-19 season include his house debuts at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (Novice *Billy Budd* and Simpleton *Boris Godunov*) and Theater an der Wien (Rodolphe *Guillaume Tell*). He also returns to Vlaanderen Opera (Vitek *The Makropulos Case* and Der *Kavalier Cardillac*).

Furness has received great acclaim for his performances of Britten, including the Novice *Billy Budd* (Teatro Real, Madrid, Teatro Municipal, Santiago and for his house debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden); title role *Albert Herring* (Opera di Firenze, Opera Holland Park and in a new production at the Théâtre du Capitôle Toulouse) and Quint and the Prologue *The Turn of the Screw*

(Northern Ireland Opera). He also excels in the music of Janacek and has sung Števa *Jenůfa* (Scottish Opera) and *The Diary of One Who Vanished* (Shadwell Opera, directed by his brother Jack).

Other roles include Don José *Carmen* (Jyväskylä Opera); Lensky *Eugene Onegin* (Royal Academy Opera and at the Rydale Festival directed by his brother Jack); Tamino *Die Zauberflöte* (Turku Music Festival); Flamand *Capriccio* (Garsington Opera); title role *Les contes d’Hoffmann* (English Touring Opera); Jaquino *Fidelio* (Garsington Opera and Philharmonie de Paris); Baron Lummer *Intermezzo*, Gaspar in the world première of David Sawer’s *The Skating Rink* and Jack in the world première of Roxanna Panufnik’s *Silver Birch* (all for Garsington Opera).

Oratorio and concert repertoire includes Mozart Requiem, Bach *St Matthew Passion* and *St John Passion*, Mendelssohn *Elijah*, Handel *Messiah* and *Samson*, Britten *St Nicholas* and *Les Illuminations*, Verdi Requiem and Dyson *Canterbury Pilgrims*.

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