

Phillip Rhodes

Baritone



“Phillip Rhodes did a very good job of Baron Scarpia, every inch a villain. Rhodes has a beautiful, dark voice with which he painted a perfect picture of the evil swindler with the character of a rotten medlar. His ‘Va, Tosca’ was lugubriously ominous.”

Olivier Keegel, Opera Gazet

UK-based New Zealand baritone **Phillip Rhodes** was the winner of the 2005 New Zealand Aria Competition and was awarded second place at the International Montserrat Caballe Competition in 2008. He is a former Emerging Artist with New Zealand Opera and has since appeared regularly with the company in principal roles.

Last season he returned to New Zealand Opera in the title role of **Macbeth**, to Wellington Opera as **Enrico Lucia di Lammermoor**, and to Scottish Opera as **Escamillo Carmen**.

This season he looks forward to making his debut with Opera Australia as **Giorgio Germont La Traviata**, which he also sings at Scottish Opera, **Count Anckarström Un ballo in Maschera** with the Chelsea Opera Group, and further ahead to returning to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Recent highlights include **Escamillo Carmen** (Royal Opera House, Opera North, Welsh National Opera, The Grange Festival); his role debut as **Figaro The Marriage of Figaro** (Opera North); **Monterone Rigoletto** (Royal Opera House); his house debut at Nederlandse Reisopera as **Scarpia Tosca**; **Father Hansel and Gretel** and **Ford Falstaff** (Scottish Opera); **Speaker The Magic Flute** (Welsh National Opera); **Jud Fry Oklahoma!** (Grange Park Opera); and **King Le Cid** (Dorset Opera).

In his native New Zealand, he has recently appeared as **Don Pizarro Fidelio** in concert with Auckland Philharmonia; as **Giorgio Germont La traviata** for Wellington Opera; and as **Judge Turpin Sweeney Todd**, **Giorgio Germont** and **Scarpia** in a new production of **Tosca** for New Zealand Opera.

Other operatic engagements include **Alfio Cavalleria rusticana**, **Silvio Pagliacci**, **Renato Un ballo in Maschera**, **Mizgir The Snowmaiden**, **Father Hänsel und Gretel**, **Marcello La bohème**, **Aeneas Dido and Aeneas**, **Roucher Andrea Chénier** (Opera North); **Monterone Rigoletto**, **Malatesta Don Pasquale**, **Alfio Cavalleria rusticana**, **Silvio Pagliacci**, **Marcello La bohème**, **Geronimo Il matrimonio segreto**, title role **Il signore Bruschino**, the title role in a new production of **Hohepa** and the title role in the world premiere of **Turpin** (New Zealand Opera); **Older Man** in Tansy Davies' *Between Worlds* (English National Opera); **Conte di Luna Il trovatore** and **Scarpia Tosca** (Dorset Opera); **Grandfather Clock/Black Cat L'Enfant et les Sortilèges** (Auckland Opera Factory); and **Maori Chef/Captain Cook** in Matthew Suttor and John Downie's *Trial of the Cannibal Dog* (Wellington Opera House). He has also covered title role **Sweeney Todd** (New Zealand Opera); and **Gérard Andrea Chénier**, **Iago Otello** and **Balstrode Peter Grimes** (Opera North).

Rhodes was born in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, where he graduated in 2004 with a Diploma in Arts and Voice. In 2008, he was awarded a scholarship to attend the Cardiff International Academy of Voice under the tutelage of Dennis O'Neill, where he remained for three seasons. In 2005 he won the Lexus Song Quest, bringing him to the attention of Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, who still maintains her interest in his career. Phillip acknowledges the support of the Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation.

Valid for use until 1 September 2024
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