

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.

In the 2021-22 season he sings **Giorgio Germont** *La traviata* for Wellington Opera, and returns to the Royal Opera House as **Monterone** *Rigoletto* and to Opera North as **Escamillo** *Carmen*.

Recent highlights include **Escamillo** *Carmen* (Royal Opera House and The Grange Festival); his role debut as **Figaro** *The Marriage of Figaro* (Opera North); his house debut at Nederlandse Reisopera as **Scarpia** *Tosca*; **Father** *Hansel and Gretel* and **Ford** *Falstaff* (Scottish Opera); **Escamillo** *Carmen*, **Speaker** *The Magic Flute* and cover **Renato** *Un ballo in maschera* (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, in recital for New Zealand Opera, and as **Judge Turpin** *Sweeney Todd*, **Giorgio Germont** *La traviata*, and **Scarpia** in a new production of *Tosca*.

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**, **Monostatos** *Die Zauberflöte*, 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); **Count 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 **Enrico** *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Royal Opera House); 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.

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