

Stafford Law

Jonathan May

is one of Britain's leading bass-baritones, known for his detailed, vivid characterisations.

Jonathan May trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Britten-Pears School and the National Opera Studio, where he was the Royal Opera Scholar.

For the Royal Opera House, he has sung roles in Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Beethoven's *Fidelio*, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Strauss' *Elektra* (Old Servant); Thomas' *Hamlet* (Polonius); *La Forza del Destino* (Alcalde); and *La Rondine* (Perichaud).

With Welsh National Opera, he has sung the Flemish Deputy and King Phillip (*Don Carlos*), Kochubei and Orlik (*Mazeppa*), Commendatore (*Don Giovanni*) and Monterone (*Rigoletto*), as well as principal roles in Bizet's *Carmen*, Britten's *Billy Budd*, Janacek's *From the House of the Dead*, Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* and *Rigoletto*, and Wagner's *Parsifal*.

With Scottish Opera, he has sung principal roles in Beamish's *Monster* (Coleridge), Bizet's *Carmen* (Zuniga), Puccini's *Tosca* (Angelotti), *Turandot* (Mandarin), and *Madama Butterfly* (Bonze and Sharpless), Massenet's *Werther* (Johann), Verdi *Rigoletto* (Sparafucile) and Verdi *Trovatore* (Ferrando).

For Opera North, he has sung Bonze, whilst for English Touring Opera, Jonathan May has sung Dulcimara in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*, Colline in Puccini's *La Bohème* and Papageno in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*; with the Garsington Festival, Peneios in Richard Strauss' *Daphne*; and with Mid Wales Opera, Figaro in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

Jonathan May made his French debut in February 2003 as Traveller in Britten's *Curlew River*, a role that he reprised in 2005. Further international engagements include the Doctor in Birwhistle's *Punch and Judy* at the Grand Theatre de Geneve, three principal roles in Osbourne's *Electrification of the Soviet Union* for Opera Vest (Norway), Judge/Duke/Hotel Manager (*Powder Her Face*) at Opéra Théâtre de Metz and Somnus and Cadmus *Semele* in Paris under the baton of David Stern.

Future engagements include Old Prince Bolkonsky (*War and Peace*) with Welsh National Opera, in Cardiff, on tour and at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.



Opera Theatre Company, Don Giovanni

*Jonathan May is the Commendatore
coming splendidly into his own as he
comes back to life to drag the great
seducer down to hell*

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