

Neil Balfour

BARITONE



Indian-Scottish Neil Balfour is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music and the National Opera Studio. A former Britten Pears and Concordia artist, he has performed at the Glastonbury Festival and was the first to beatbox in an opera at Longborough Festival Opera.

In the current season he performs in *The Snowmaiden* and *The Wellies*, both for English Touring Opera; **Bartley** *Riders to the Sea* for OperaUpclose; and a recital at Thaxted Festival with Sholto Kynoch.

Among his recent highlights are his American debut as **Father** in Kamala Sankaram's opera, *Thumbprint* (Portland Opera); **Prince Yamadori** *Madam Butterfly*, **Safin** *The Shoemaker* (Welsh National Opera); **Guillermo Kahlo** *Frida* (Northern Opera Group); **Navin** *The End of the World Party* (Hull Urban Opera);

King Hrothgar *Beowulf* (Proper Job Theatre); and **Jacob** *Displaced* (Coalign/Tête-à-Tête).

His operatic roles include **Colline** *La bohème* (Mananan Opera, OFMAN Madrid Opera Studio); **Mercurio** *La Calisto* (Longborough Festival Opera), **Don Alfonso** *Così fan tutte*, **Quince** *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, **Lord Ellington** *La vie Parisienne* (RNCM); **Dottore Grenvil** *La traviata* (Devon Opera); **Cold Genius** *King Arthur* (Glastonbury Festival); **Mustafà** *L'italiana in Algeri*, **Don Pasquale** *Don Pasquale* (Mananan Opera); and **Claggart** *Billy Budd Re-imagined* (Royal Ballet & Opera Family Weekend). He has also covered **Figaro** *Le nozze di Figaro* (Longborough Festival Opera).

In contemporary opera he has performed **Jean Arp** *Sophie* (Tête à Tête); **Ibn Al-Haytham** *Al-Haytham's Light* and **Texy/Everywhere** *Back into the World* (English Touring Opera); **Punch** *Crocodile* (Hull Urban Opera); **Father** *Mysterious 44* (the first electronic opera); and **Dad/La-La** *A Shoe Full of Stars* (YAM Awards Best Opera 2018).

Concert performances have included Gershwin *Porgy & Bess* (Leeds Philharmonic Orchestra) and Paul Rissmann's *Alice in Wonderland Suites* (London Symphony Orchestra). He has performed song recitals for Leeds Lieder, &Piano, Britten Pears Arts and the Leeds Opera Festival. For the Oxford International Song Festival he has performed recitals of Schumann, Sondheim, and a programme paired with perfumes.

Neil is the first classical artist for sE Electronics and NORD (world-leading microphones & digital pianos), director of ArtSongStory (compelling videos of art-song) and is proud to be supported by Penhaligon's British Perfumers, VivoBarefoot shoes, Mason Cycles, Hunt Wheels and Tailfin Bikepacking equipment. His work as a voiceover artist has had over 100 million plays.

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