

Simon Wilding

BASS



English bass Simon Wilding was born in Leigh, Lancashire and studied at the Royal Northern College of Music. He maintains an active performing career throughout the United Kingdom and internationally.

In the current season he performs **Hunding** *Die Walküre* (Pacific Opera Victoria, London Opera Company); **Fafner** *Das Rheingold*, *Siegfried* (Longborough Festival Opera); and **Pistol** *Falstaff* (West Green House Opera). Further ahead he returns to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Highlights in recent seasons include **2nd Soldier** *Salome* (Royal Opera House); **Sparafucile** *Rigoletto* (Opera Holland Park); **The Doctor / Clerk** *The Nose* (Royal Danish Opera); **Employee / Watchman / Servant / Policeman / Gentleman / Acquaintance of Kovalyov** in Barrie Kosky's production of *The Nose* (Royal

Opera House, Komische Oper, Teatro Real); **Russell** *The Exterminating Angel* (Royal Danish Opera); **Sacristan** *Tosca* (Grange Park Opera); and **Judge Turpin** *Sweeney Todd* (West Green House Opera).

He made his debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in 1997 as a **Brabantian Noble** *Lohengrin* (under Gergiev), followed by appearances as **A Cappadocian** *Salome* (under Christoph von Dohnányi) and **Hans Foltz** *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (under Bernard Haitink). During his ongoing relationship with ROH other roles include **Lane/Merriman** in Gerald Barry's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, **Sciarrone** *Tosca*, **Ein Lackai** *Ariadne auf Naxos*, **Pinellino** *Gianni Schicchi*, **Gessler** *Guillaume Tell*, and **Oroe** *Semiramide* (under Pappano). With English National Opera he appeared most recently in Birtwistle's *The Mask Of Orpheus*, and with Opera Holland Park, and Mid Wales Opera he has performed repertoire including Purcell, Rossini, Wagner, and Britten. With the Opera Group he made his mark in contemporary operas, most notably as the **Athlete** in Olga Neuwirth's *American Lulu* (Young Vic, Edinburgh International Festival, Bregenzer Festspiele).

On the international stage he made his professional debut in 1989 at the Bayreuther Festspiele where he was the youngest adult performer in the Festival's history. Other international engagements include **Jove** *La Calisto*, **Pluto**, **Caronte**, **Colonel** *Il pomo d'oro* (Batignano Festival); **Billy Jackrabbit** *La fanciulla del West*, **Provazolezec** in Hass' *Šarlatan*, **Wemburgo** in Zandonai's *I cavalieri di Ekebù* (Wexford Opera Festival); **Zaccaria** *Nabucco* (Macedonian National Opera); **Hobson** *Peter Grimes* (Beijing Music Festival); **Sciarrone** *Tosca* (Nederlandse Reisopera); and Jonathan Dove's *The Enchanted Pig* (New Victory Theatre, New York). In 2016 he returned to New York for the US stage premiere of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

On the concert platform he has performed with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Ulster Orchestra, and at the Royal Albert Hall. His recorded works include live recordings of *Salome* and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (Royal Opera House); **Lieutenant Ratcliffe** *Billy Budd* (Hallé Orchestra); **Dick Deadeye** *HMS Pinafore* (D'Oyly Carte); and **Policeman** in Dame Ethel Smyth's *The Boatswain's Mate* (Lontano Ensemble/Odaline de la Martinez).

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