

# Shaun Dixon

## Tenor

New Zealand-born tenor Shaun Dixon has been performing from the age of 9. He currently lives in Cardiff having moved to London in 2005. Shaun has appeared in leading roles with some of the foremost opera companies and orchestras in the United Kingdom and New Zealand. In 2000 Shaun was invited by the legendary tenor Luciano Pavarotti to study with him in Pesaro, Italy in which he was a guest of the Maestros household for 6 months and travelled internationally as part of his entourage

**Training:** National Opera Studio, London for 2006/07 year, PGDip (Opera) (2006), BBIOS, RCM, London supported by the Irene Hansen and Charles Branchini Awards; Auckland Opera Studio (2002-2004) private opera training institution. Auckland University, NZ, Bachelor of Music (1999) Pears –Britten Scholar. Richard Millar Vocal Pedagogy Summer Course (Melbourne 1999).

**Voice teachers:** Ryland Davies (2005-2007) Luciano Pavarotti (July – Dec 2000), Beatrice Webster (1996-1999) Audrey Paterson (1990-1995), Francis Stockwell (1988).

**Coaches:** Isobel Flinn, Audrey Hyland, Craig Rutenburg, Elizabeth Rowe, Peter Robinson, Maria Cleva, David Syrus, David Gowland, Mark Packwood, Andrew Greenwood, Michael Pollock, Rupert Dussman, Brenda Hurley, Jean Mallandaine, Guido di Nunzio, Leone Magiera, Janos Acs, Rosemary Barnes and Frances Wilson.

**Masterclasses:** Luciano Pavarotti, Richard Millar, Marvin Keenze, Sir Thomas Allen, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Craig Rutenburg, John Fisher, Sir Donald McIntyre, Virginia Zeani.

### Operatic roles:

*La Boheme (Rodolfo) Opéra de Baugé (France July 2011), Opera factory, NZ 2002*

*Tosca (Cavaradossi) Charles Court Opera (June 2011)*

*Eugene Onegin (Lensky), Stanley Hall Opera (May/June 2011), British Youth Opera 2006*

*Rigoletto (Duke of Mantua), Welsh National Opera (June 2010), Opéra de Baugé (France July 2010)*

*La Traviata (Alfredo) Opéra de Baugé (France July 09), WNO\* (Oct-Dec 2009), Scottish Opera\* 08.*

*Manon (Des Grieux\*), Scottish Opera 08/09*

*Rigoletto (Borsa), NBRNZ Opera*

*Gogmagog (Tenor) world premiere at the coliseum commission for ENO Baylis*

*The Nightengale and the Rose (The Student)(World premiere) RCM*

*L'heure espagnole (Gonzalve), BBIOS, RCM*

*Die Fledermaus (Alfred), BBIOS, RCM*

*Idomeneo (Arbace) Auckland Opera Studio, NZ 2004*

*Lakmé (Frédéric /Gerald\*) Canterbury Opera, NZ 2002*

*Galileo (Bellarmino) (World premiere) Auckland University, NZ 2001*

*Giulio Cesare (Nireno) Auckland City Opera, NZ 1998*

*Future engagements in 2012 include Alfredo\* for WNO, Cavaradossi in Tosca for Opéra de Baugé and Rodolfo in La Boheme for WNO.*

(\*Indicates employed as lead cover)

## **Opera Scenes:**

*La Traviata and Manon Unwrapped* ( Scottish Opera Orchestra) , Roberto Devereux, *La Traviata*, *Werther* , *Pearl Fishers*, *Rigoletto*, *Flight*, *Silver Tasse*, (National Opera Studio). *Don Giovanni*, *Magic Flute* (RCM and Auckland University).

## **Oratorio:**

Tenor soloist for: *Stabat Mater* Dvorak , Harpenden Choral Society; *St Cecilia Mass* Gounod, Perth Choral Society; Verdi *Requiem* Dorset Guild of Singers, Perth Choral Society Scotland; Bach *St Matthew Passion* City of Dunedin Choir; Handel *Messiah*, Gloucester Choral Society, Perth Choral Society , Auckland Choral Society; *Haydn Seasons*, Abingdon Music Society, Bach *St John Passion* Lea Singers; *Messa di Gloria* Puccini, South Essex Choral; Mendelssohn *Elijah* Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir 2007; Beethoven *9<sup>th</sup> Symphony* Royal Philharmonic Orchestra 2007; Coleridge-Taylor *Hiawatha* High Wycombe Choral; Lloyd-Webber *Requiem* Christchurch City Choir; Beethoven *Mass in C*, *Chichester Psalms*, Auckland University; *Schubert Mass in G* St Peters Church Choir Hamilton, NZ .

## **Concerts:**

*Pure Pavarotti* UK tour tribute concerts for Calibre Productions 2008.

*Opera Gala* Concert, Colston Hall, Royal Philharmonic and Bristol Choral Society 2008.

Guest tenor with *Hayley Westenra in Concert*: Matakana Outdoor Concert 2008, MCSO, NZ, Brunei 2007, Tour NZ (2001) and Australia (2005).

*Carmen and the Musicals* (with Sally Burgess).

*Midsummer Night Magic II and A Night at the Opera* (Christchurch Symphony Orchestra).

*Verdi Gala Concert at Auckland Town Hall* , *Symphony Under the Stars* Auckland Domain (140,000 audience) *Lakeside Rotorua*, NZ outside concert (20,000 audience) *A night of Gilbert and Sullivan* (with Heather Begg) (Auckland Philharmonic)

*NBR Stadium Spectacular, Telecom Christmas Showcase* (New Zealand Symphony Orchestra).

## **Events:**

Louis Vuitton Cup 20th Anniversary dinner, National Anthem: All Blacks vs Lions Rugby Test, Christchurch 2005, AB's vs Eng, Wellington 2003. Performance at the Royal Palace for the King of Tonga, Variety Club international conference, NBR Arts awards.

Regular Tenor for functions and gala concerts produced by London Festival Opera from April 2011 touring UK and Internationally .

## **Television :**

Featured in the 2008 series '*Maestro*' for BBC2 UK used as rehearsal tenor for the week with celebrities . New Zealand appearances: *A Knight and a Dame* 2006; *Christmas Cracker* 2005; *Big night in* ( 2 Episodes); *NBR Stadium Spectacular*; *Goodmorning*; *Mc Donalds Young Entertainers*; *Lotto 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration*; *Christmas Showcase*; *Showcase Talent quest series 5 episodes and winner of viewers choice* (1996).

## **Radio/Recordings:**

'No.2' (Movie) Featured soloist on sound track, EMI (2006 Winner at Sundance film festival) also featured in London Film Festival 2007. BBC3 Broadcast 'In Tune' '*Lensky Aria*' *Eugene Onegin* , BYO promotion and interview 2006. *Verdi gala concert* (live broadcast concert FM), *Messiah live* (CD) Auckland choral society, *Galileo* ( opera broadcast concert Fm ,NZ), *Hayley Westenra* debut album (Guest artist) Universal Music , *A Special Recital* (CD) Frontier records. Featured soloist, Concert FM, Stage and Screen series a "Night of Gilbert and Sullivan", National Radio NZ.

## Reviews:

Eugene Onegin: "The New Zealand Tenor Shaun Dixon was in his element as Lensky" (Opera, Sept 2011)

Rigoletto: "WNO were fortunate to have Shaun Dixon as reserve for the indisposed Gwyn Hughes Jones, singing with complete aplomb and immaculate style..... Dixon also has excellent presence and is a better actor than most spaghetti regulars." (The Artsdesk.com, web review June 2010)

Handel Messiah: "No one could better soloist Shaun Dixon in strength and clarity of voice and the calmness, assurance and comfort his mien bespoke. He was wonderful" (Perth Advertiser, Scotland Dec 12, 2008)

National Opera Studio Showcase: "Shaun Dixon sang with Italianate warmth in the title role of Roberto Devereux... "polished form as Alfredo" (Opera, July 2007) "Fine tenors are the rarest operatic birds, and his ringing tones and good stage persona ensured a successful career in the making" (Musical Pointers Web review)

British Youth Opera Gala concert: The centrepiece was the duet between Gilda and the Duke from Act I of Rigoletto with the Hungarian soprano Alinka Kozari and NZ tenor Shaun Dixon. Top class, passionate singing and a lovely blend of voices. (Musical Pointers Web review)

Die Fledermaus: "Shaun Dixon revealed an agile, at times quite Italianate tenor as Alfred – I loved his snatches of 'E lucevan le stelle' from the prison cell." (Music- web international) "Shaun Dixon's wonderfully Dotty Alfred furnished an appealing tenor sound that would certainly be on my shopping list" (Opera Now, April 2006)

Night at the Opera gala concert: "Taking out some of the evening's best tunes, Dixon was charismatic on stage, with a voice of athletic grace and expressive power." (The Press, Christchurch, NZ)

Andrew Lloyd-Webbers' Requiem: "Of the soloists, Dixon impressed with his attractive, virile voice and secure platform stature. He inspires belief." (The Press, Christchurch, NZ)

Verdi Requiem: "Shaun Dixon sang beautifully even in the most strenuous passages... His intensely felt articulate singing of the Ingemisco was powerful" (Waikato Times)

Wellington Recital: "For the opera house. Dixon is well equipped. He is technically proficient, has excellent breath control and histrionic ability" (The Evening Post, NZ)

Auckland Recital: "... everywhere an uninhibited, emotional verismo that half-gasps its way through beautifully turned words and sets the audience cheering" .... "Melting moments that carried you heavenwards" (New Zealand Herald)

**Current as of November 2011 . Shaun has a UK Ancestry Employment Visa**