



Christopher Saunders

Tenor

Messiah – Collegium Symphonic Chorus
“...tenor Christopher Saunders sounded in his element with a very real understanding of the role of the oratorio soloist. He imbued everything he sang with profound expressiveness.”

Neville Cohen

The West Australian, December 2006

Così fan tutte – Victorian Opera
“Tenor Christopher Saunders was sweet toned and supple in body and voice”

Barney Zwartz

The Sunday Age, August 2006

Sweeney Todd – Opera North
“Christopher Saunders sings the role beautifully – a real star performance.”

Rodney Milnes

The Times, April 2002

Christopher Saunders studied voice at the University of Queensland. He was the recipient of several awards, including the City of Sydney Eisteddfod Aria and Lieder Prize and the EMI recording prize at the Sydney Opera House in 1994. During this time, he was a regular soloist with the Queensland Pops, Queensland Philharmonic and Queensland Symphony Orchestras and was a young artist at Opera Queensland where his roles included Ernesto in *Don Pasquale* and Aufidio in *Lucio Silla*. He also sang for Sydney Metropolitan Opera in *Christina's World* by Ross Edwards.

In 1994, Christopher Saunders won the Guildhall School of Music and Drama Prize at the Australian Singing Competition as a result of which he was offered a place on the Post-Graduate Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. During this time, his roles included Pan/Nature in *Las Calisto*, Jenik in *The Cunning Peasant* and Harlequin in *The Emperor of Atlantis*.

Since graduating, Christopher Saunders' roles have included Rimenos in *Artaxerxes*, Don Polidoro in *La finta semplice* and Agenore in *Il re pastore* for the Classical Opera Company at the Linbury Studio, Royal Opera, Covent Garden. He has also sung Jacquino in *Fidelio* for English Touring Opera; Flute in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Tobias in *Sweeney Todd* and Gaston in *La traviata* for Opera North; Snout in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, Jupiter and Apollo, Semele and Hylas in *The Trojans at Carthage* for English National Opera; Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Raffaele in *Stiffelio* and Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* for Opera Holland Park, Ralph Rackstraw in *HMS Pinafore* and Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* for the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company at the Queens Theatre in London's West End.

Christopher is also an experienced concert artist. His engagements include *Britten Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings* at the Barbican Hall, *St. Nicholas* with the East of England Orchestra, and *Messiah* and the Rossini *Petite Messe Solennelle* with Northern Sinfonia. He has also been featured as guest soloist on BBC Radio 2's *Friday Night is Music Night* and has appeared in BBC broadcasts of *Lady Windermere's Fan* with Penelope Keith at the Covent Garden Festival, *Sweeney Todd*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *La Traviata*. He has sung *Acis* in *Acis and Galatea* at London's Wigmore Hall and was the chosen tenor to sing *Messiah* for the Prince of Wales at Gloucester Cathedral. In 2001 Christopher returned to Australia to sing Elena Kats-Chernin's *Rockhampton Gardens Symphony* for Queensland Biennial Festival of Music in Rockhampton.

Since returning to live in Australia, Christopher has sung in Victorian Opera's Inaugural Gala and Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* and *St. John Passion* with that company as well as *Messiah* for Christchurch City Choir in New Zealand and Collegium Symphonic Chorus in Perth.

In 2007, engagements included *Les Noces* and the Shepherd in *Oedipus Rex* in concert for Victorian Opera; the Bach *Magnificat* with Auckland Philharmonia; *Messiah* with Collegium Symphonic Chorus again and Tasmanian Symphony; and a New Year's Eve concert with Queensland Pops Orchestra. In 2008, Christopher has collaborated on a workshop of Gordon Kerry's opera *Inkatha* for State Opera of South Australia with Adelaide Festival. Other 2008 engagements include *Mozart Requiem* for Sydney Chamber Choir and Tamino in *The Magic Flute* for Opera Queensland. Christopher has also released a recording *Songs of Travel*.

Please refer to www.christophersaunders.tenor.com for further details.

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