



## 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

Schubert Project: Lieder – Australian National Academy of Music  
“Christopher Saunders ... proved to be the true heart of this gathering of Schubert devotees. Accompanied by the unobtrusive Berta Brozgul, Saunders interpreted three lieder... Committed to the marriage of musical and lyrical line, he sang with great tenderness and tactful passion.”  
John Slavin, *The Age*, 9 September 2008

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. Christopher returned to Australia briefly 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 Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, *St. John Passion*, *Les Noces* and the Shepherd in *Oedipus Rex* in concert and at the Inaugural Gala for Victorian Opera, *Messiah* for Christchurch City Choir in New Zealand, Collegium Symphonic Chorus in Perth and the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Bach *Magnificat* with Auckland Philharmonia and a New Year's Eve concert with Queensland Pops Orchestra.

During 2008 Christopher collaborated on a workshop of Gordon Kerry's opera *Ingkata* for State Opera of South Australia with Adelaide Festival, sang a programme of lieder for the Schubert Project at the Australian National Academy of Music, Mozart *Requiem* for Sydney Chamber Choir, *Elijah* for Canberra Choral Society, *Messiah* for Royal Melbourne Philharmonic and Tamino in *The Magic Flute* for Opera Queensland.

Christopher's 2009 engagements will include a return to the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra for Haydn's *Mass in Time of War*, a lieder recital at the Port Fairy Festival and *Messiah* for Sydney Philharmonia Choirs. Christopher has also released a recording *Songs of Travel*.

Please refer to [www.christophersaunderstenor.com](http://www.christophersaunderstenor.com) for further details.

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