



## Christopher Tonkin

### Baritone

Australian baritone Christopher Tonkin completed his Bachelor of Music Performance at the University of Melbourne (VCA) in 2004, graduating with First Class Honours. He is now completing his final year at Royal Academy Opera, studying with Raymond Connell and Iain Ledingham.

Christopher made his operatic debut in the title role of Melbourne Opera's critically acclaimed production of *Don Giovanni*. Other roles performed since then include Antonio in *Gondoliers* (Opera Australia), Silvio in *Pagliacci* (Galati, Romania), L'Horloge Comtoise and Le Chat in *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* and Happy in *La Fanciulla del West* (Melbourne Symphony Orchestra), Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* (Victorian Opera), Antenor in *Dardanus*, Robert in *Iolanta*, Marco in *Gianni Schicchi*, Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia*, Drebyednyetsov in *Paradise Moscow* and Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* under Sir Colin Davis (Royal Academy Opera).

Christopher's extensive concert experience includes Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*, *The Christmas Oratorio*, *Magnificat*, *The Coffee Cantata*, *Cantata's BWV 12, 22, 23, 75 and 128*, Mozart's *Vespers* and *Requiem*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, *Maria Theresa Mass* and *Paukenmesse*, Purcell's *Ode to St. Cecilia*, Szymanowski's *Stabat Mater*, Vaughan-Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* and *Songs of Travel*, Rudi Stephan's *Liebeszauber*, Schumann's *Dichterliebe* and has sung Bach's *Cantata 207*, Handel's *Messiah* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Christopher is generously supported by the Kohn Foundation and the Josephine Baker Trust. He has won several significant awards and prizes including the Opera Foundation Australia Italian Opera Award, the Daisy Webster-Esther Nolan Scholarship, the Lowrey Arts Scholarship, the Ross Hartnell Memorial Scholarship, the Athenaeum Scholarship and was runner-up at the Concorso Internazionale 'Tita Ruffo', Italy.

Christopher's future engagements will see return engagements to Victorian Opera to sing Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore* and Novice's Friend (cover Billy) in *Billy Budd* with Opera Australia under the direction of Richard Hickox.