



John Bolton Wood

Baritone

The Barber of Seville

"Australian John Bolton Wood stole the show. His subtlety of nuance, his comic acting and movement on stage could hardly be bettered."

Rosemary Collier

Sunday Star Times – 19 October 1996

Batavia

"Bolton Wood's Predikant was a triumph – beautifully sung, acted with absolute conviction: a thoroughly credible man of the cloth whose abhorrence of the precipitous descent of the society in which he is trapped into barbaric chaos and his own descent into madness were flawlessly conveyed in demeanour and utterance alike."

David Gyger

Opera Opera – June 2001

Born in Sydney, John Bolton Wood received his music education at the NSW Conservatorium of Music and London Opera Centre. He made his UK debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as Bosun in Benjamin Britten's *Billy Budd*.

On his return to Australia in 1973 he sang the role of Roderick Usher in Larry Sitzky's *Fall of the House of Usher*, the first full-scale production to be staged in the Opera Theatre, Sydney Opera House. Since then he has appeared with all the State Opera companies and with Opera Australia in a wide variety of roles.

John received great acclaim from the public and colleagues alike for his role as Old Deuteronomy in the Australian production and Asian tour of *Cats*, which he sang for an astounding 1498 performances. He is also noted for his performances in the operetta repertoire, particularly in roles such as Agamemnon in *La Belle Helene*, Jupiter in *Orpheus in the Underworld* and his justly renowned interpretation of Frank in *Die Fledermaus*.

John's successes in the Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire include Captain Corcoran in *HMS Pinafore* to Edward Woodward's Sir Joseph Porter, Major-General Stanley in the Broadway production of *The Pirates of Penzance*, the role of Lord Mountararat in *Iolanthe* for the Victoria State Opera, and Gilbert and Sullivan Unlimited with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. Other concerts include a Gala AIDS Benefit Concert in Brisbane, which was televised nationally, and Frank in *Die Fledermaus* and Germont in *La Traviata*, both for the VSO at the Myer Music Bowl in Melbourne.

Other notable operatic engagements include Dr Bartolo in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* for the Welsh National Opera, Victorian State Opera and Wellington City Opera, Sacristan in *Tosca* and Fra Melitone in *La Forza del Destino* for Opera Queensland, Frank in *Die Fledermaus* for Opera Queensland and State Opera of South Australia and the title roles in *Rigoletto* and *Gianni Schicchi* for Opera New Zealand.

Roles for Opera Australia include Fra Melitone in *La Forza del Destino*, Benoit and Alcindoro in *La bohème*, Somarone in *Béatrice et Bénédicte*, Sacristan in *Tosca*, The Duke of Plaza-Toro in *The Gondoliers*, Lord Mountararat in *Iolanthe*, The Preacher in *Batavia*, an opera by Richard Mills, Dr. Bartolo in *Il Barbiere Di Siviglia*, Gianni Schicchi, Medical Specialist, Banker and Professor in *Lulu*, Blansac in *La Scala di Seta*, Bruschino padre in *Il Signor Bruschino*, Baron Zeta in *The Merry Widow*, Germont Père in *La Traviata*, Pooh-Bah in *The Mikado*, Frank in *Die Fledermaus*, Sir Joseph Porter in *HMS Pinafore* and Counsel for the Plaintiff in *Trial By Jury*. In 2006 John sang Germont in *La Traviata*, Don Alhambra in *The Gondoliers* and Major-General Stanley in *The Pirate's of Penzance* for Opera Australia. He also appeared in Opera Australia's *Music by Moonlight* concert - Gilbert & Sullivan the Favourites - at Sydney Olympic Park, at Opera under the Stars at Broome and in the lunchtime concert for Orchestra Victoria. In 2007 he sang Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd* and Don Alhambra in *The Gondoliers* for Opera Australia and Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* for Opera Queensland as well as a gala concert for Opera Australia at Williamstown Town Hall.

Roles in 2008 include Benoit and Alcindoro in *La bohème* for Opera Australia and Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville* for Opera Queensland.

John Bolton Wood has won five Green Room Awards - for Papageno, Colonel Frank, Major-General Stanley, Lord Mountararat and Germont.