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John Bolton Wood AM 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

A celebrated performer and the winner of five Green Room Awards, John Bolton Wood, who was awarded an AM for his services to Opera in 2009, was born in Sydney, and received his music education at the NSW Conservatorium of Music and the London Opera Centre. He made his UK debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as Bosun in Benjamin Britten's *Billy Budd*.

John returned to Australia in 1973 to sing 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*, Alcindoro in *La Bohème*, Somarone in *Béatrice et Bénédict*, Sacristan in *Tosca*, The Duke of Plaza-Toro in *The Gondoliers*, Lord Mountararat in *Iolanthe*, The Preacher in Richard Mills' *Batavia*, Dr. Bartolo in *Il Barbiere Di Siviglia*, the title role in *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*.

Recent performances include Germont in *La Traviata*, Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*, Don Alhambra in *The Gondoliers*, Major-General Stanley in *The Pirate's of Penzance* and Benoit and Alcindoro in *La Bohème* for Opera Australia, Opera Australia's *Music by Moonlight* concert - Gilbert & Sullivan the Favourites - at Sydney Olympic Park and a gala concert for Opera Australia at Williamstown Town Hall, Opera under the Stars in Broome, a lunchtime concert for Orchestra Victoria and Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* and Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville* for Opera Queensland.

This year John performs the role of Baron Douphol in *La Traviata* for Opera Queensland and Alcindoro and Benoit in *La Bohème* for Opera Australia in the Myer Music Bowl.

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