



Luke Gabbedy Baritone

The Barber of Seville West Australian Opera
"Baritone Luke Gabbedy gives an excellent performance of Figaro. A splendid Italian-sounding baritone with a winning smile, he wins over the audience the moment he rides on stage on his antique bicycle."
Rosalind Appleby
The West, 4 August 2008

Luke completed a Diploma of Performing Arts (1996) and Bachelor of Music Performance (1998) at the WA Conservatorium of Music, and a Graduate Diploma of Education at the Edith Cowan University (1999). He was a member of the West Australian Opera Chorus from 1998 – 2002, during which time he travelled to Italy to sing Masetto in *Don Giovanni* at the Opera Theatre and Music Festival of Lucca. In 2002, Luke became a member of the West Australian Opera Young Artist Programme and in the same year was also invited to become a Developing Artist of the Australian Opera Studio. Roles during this time included Count Almaviva in *Figaro's Wedding*, Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Anthony in *Sweeney Todd*, Nardo in *La Finta Giardiniera*, Paris in *Romeo et Juliette*, Imperial Commissioner in *Madama Butterfly*, Melisso in *Alcina*, St Brioche in *The Merry Widow*, the Café Manager in *Greek*, Riccardo in *The Sound Garden*, and the DryBlower in Iain Grandage's *The Dryblower and the Water Girl* (a new opera for children commissioned by the Australian Opera Studio).

Luke has been a finalist in many of the country's major singing competitions including the Covent Garden National Opera Studio Scholarship, the German Operatic Award, second place in the Metropolitan Opera Young Artist Study Award, second place in the National Operatic Aria Competition and the McDonald's Aria.

In 2003, Luke sang the role of Escamillo in *Carmen* for Simply Opera, touring NSW and subsequently became a member of Opera Australia's chorus, singing the role of Narrator in the company's Oz Opera tour of *Midnite* in both Melbourne and Adelaide.

Luke made his principal debut with Opera Australia as Mercutio in *Romeo et Juliette* in 2005, and since then has sung the roles of Giuseppe in *The Gondoliers*, Fiorello and the title role in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Marco in *Gianni Schicchi*, Dancairo in *Carmen*, Donald in *Billy Budd*, and Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly* as well as Marcello in *La Boheme* and the title role in *The Barber of Seville* for West Australian Opera.

Luke's 2009 engagements include the role of the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro* for West Australian Opera; Aeneas in *Dido & Aeneas*, Sergeant of the Archers in *Manon Lescaut*, Pish Tush in *The Mikado* and Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, all for Opera Australia.

Luke Gabbedy's Manager in Australasia is Graham Pushee: graham@artsmanagement.com.au
assisted by Sarah Holloway: sarah@artsmanagement.com.au

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