



Paul Whelan Bass-Baritone

"In the 1910 *Songs of the Fleet*, settings of poems by Henry Newbolt, the orchestra was joined by the fresh-sounding voices of the Belfast Philharmonic Choir and the New Zealand bass baritone Paul Whelan. The songs may be fustian, but Whelan's delivery – the voice startlingly full, the tone exceptionally even, the beauty of sound apparently effortless – had one hanging on every note."

– Michael Dervan, *Irish Times*, March 10, 2008

"Bass-baritone Paul Whelanhis part spans the baritone range , from stentorian bass to tenor. Whelan sang every note with remarkable agility and with a nicely burnished tone."

John Pitcher, *Omaha World Herald* December 2008

Parsifal, New Zealand International Arts Festival

"Paul Whelan's expressively sung Amfortas showed that Wagner singing can and should be much more than sheer volume of sound. He brought a lieder-like quality to his portrayal, placing particular emphasis on the text, as Wagner would surely have desired."

Michael Sinclair

The Opera Critic, March 2006

Mr. Whelan joined the roster of the Metropolitan Opera for the 2008-09 season. In addition, he performed *Messiah* with Omaha Symphony, Stanford's *Songs of Fleet* with Ulster Orchestra, Mountarat in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* with San Francisco Symphony, and *The Dream of Gerontius* with Grant Park Music Festival. Upcoming engagements for the 2009-10 season include a return to the Metropolitan Opera and to Grant Park for Beethoven Mass in C, Valens in Handel's *Theodora* with the Northern Sinfonia at Gateshead, and the bass soloist in Mozart's *Coronation Mass* with Eugene Symphony Orchestra. Future engagements include Glyndebourne Tour, Glyndebourne Festival Opera and Engagements with Nice, Lille and Dijon Operas

Mr. Whelan regularly performs in Australia and his native New Zealand, most recently performing Mozart's *Requiem* with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra in Perth in 2009.

In the 2007-08 season, Mr. Whelan returned to English National Opera to sing in the Anthony Minghella production of *Madama Butterfly*, and Raimondo in a new production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Of this performance, George Hall of The Stage wrote, "Paul Whelan sang the role magnificently." He also sang Duke Bluebeard in Bluebeard's castle with NBR Opera New Zealand . Additional recent engagements include the Priest and the Angel of Agony in Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* in Berlin, Salisbury and New Zealand, a return to the London Bach choir for *St Matthew Passion* at the Festival Hall and the world premiere of *Terra Incognita* - a Symphonic cantata for bass soloist and choir, written for Mr. Whelan by Gareth Farr and performed by the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra

In the 2006-07 season, Mr. Whelan sang Escamillo in *Carmen* at Welsh National Opera, Christus in Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and London Bach Choir, Judas in Elgar's *The Apostles* at the Leeds Festival, Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death* and Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* for Spanish television with the Orquesta Sinfónica de Madrid, and a series of concerts with Sir Charles Mackerras and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Recent notable engagements for Mr. Whelan include performances at Welsh National Opera, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Four Villains in Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* in Canterbury, New Zealand; Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder* with the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Delius's *Sea Drift* in Osaka, Argante in Handel's *Rinaldo* in Munich, Apollon in Gluck's *Alceste* at the Dresden Festival, the Nightwatchman in Wagner's *Die Meistersinger* at the closing concert of the Edinburgh Festival, and Mussorgsky *Songs and Dances of Death* with the Ulster Orchestra, both recorded for BBC Radio 3. He was featured in the

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world premieres of *The Assassin Tree* by Stuart Mcrae in a joint production with the Royal Opera House and the Edinburgh Festival, and *Bird of Night* by Dominique Legendre, also for the Royal Opera House.

Mr. Whelan began his career as a baritone and performed with many major companies including Covent Garden, the Netherlands Opera the Metropolitan Opera, the Munich State Opera, Geneva Opera, Paris Opera/Bastille, Teatro Municipal de Santiago di Chile, Scottish Opera, Australian Opera, Montpellier, and Nimes.

In concert he has performed under Sir Simon Rattle, Kent Nagano, Richard Hickox, Yehudi Menuhin, Valery Gergiev, Gary Bertini, and Vassily Sinaisky with many leading UK orchestras, as well as with the RIAS Berlin Chamber Choir and the Budapest Symphony Orchestra, among others.

He has given recitals at the Wigmore Hall, The Purcell Room, St David's Hall in Cardiff, the Cheltenham Festival, for the BBC Pebble Mill, Perth Festival and at the Châtelet Theatre in Paris.

Recordings include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the LSO under Sir Colin Davis (Philips), Kurt Weill's *Silbersee* under Markus Stenz (BMG) recordings with the BBC Philharmonic for Chandos and the BBC Scottish Symphony for Hyperion. He has also recorded for ABC Classics.

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