



Richard Greager Tenor

Siegfried, State Opera of South Australia
"Richard Greager, as the obsequious Mime, manages a brilliant balance of humorous character-singing and potency, maintaining enough edge and precision to remind us of Mime's malevolence"
Peter McCallum
Sydney Morning Herald, May Album of the week, May 19- 20 2007

New Zealander Richard Greager studied in Melbourne. He has been Principal Tenor at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Scottish Opera and Hanover State Opera. In 1980 he became a principal guest artist with Opera Australia and, until 1995, divided his career between Australia and Europe. In the 1990s he sang several major roles at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, including creating the role of King Arthur in Sir Harrison Birtwistle's highly acclaimed opera *Gawain* which received its world premiere in 1993, was revived in 1994 and won the prestigious *Gramophone* Contemporary Recording Award in 1996. Since returning to New Zealand in 1995 he has continued working throughout Australasia in opera and concert.

Engagements in 2009 included an outdoor concert at Basin Reserve with Vector Wellington Orchestra, Opera in the Paddock in Australia and the role of Goro in a concert performance of *Madama Butterfly* with Auckland Philharmonia. In 2010 he sings the role of Basilio in *The Marriage of Figaro* for NBR New Zealand Opera and Aegisthus in *Elektra* for Auckland Philharmonia.

In New Zealand, Richard Greager has sung the roles of Valzacchi in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Herod in *Salome*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* and Tikhon in *Katya Kabanova* for the New Zealand International Festival of the Arts, Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, the title role in *Peter Grimes*, Don José in *Carmen* and Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* for Wellington City Opera, Gustavus in *Un Ballo in Maschera* for both Wellington City Opera and Canterbury Opera and Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* for Canterbury Opera. He has also sung Pong in *Turandot*, Dr. Caius in *Falstaff*, Basilio in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, Guillot de Morfontaine in *Manon*, Torquemada in *L'Heure Espagnol*, Gherardo in *Gianni Schicchi*, Macduff in *Macbeth* and Prince Shuisky in *Boris Godunov* for NBR New Zealand Opera.

In Australia he has sung the Captain in *Wozzeck* (for which he won the 2001 Australian Green Room Award for Best Supporting Male Singer) and Herod in *Salome* in Sydney and Melbourne for Opera Australia. He premiered the role of Roger in *Love in the Age of Therapy* for OzOpera at the Melbourne and Sydney Festivals. His performances of Mime in State Opera of South Australia's 2004 production of Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* was recorded under the Melba label.

More recently Richard Greager has sung the roles of Vanderdendur, Governor and Ragotski in a semi-staged concert of Leonard Bernstein's *Candide* for Perth Festival, Herod in *Salome* in concert under the baton of Simone Young for Brisbane Festival, Herr Vogelsang in a concert performance of *Der Schauspieldirektor* with Auckland Philharmonia, *The Creation* for Royal Melbourne Philharmonic, *Pulcinella* for Vector Wellington Orchestra, Valzacchi in *Der Rosenkavalier* in concert with Hong Kong Philharmonic, a Russian Programme in a Gala concert in the grounds of Government House with Vector Wellington Orchestra, Torquemada in *L'Heure Espagnol* for Southern Opera and Herod in *Salome* in concert for Auckland Philharmonia.

Throughout his career, Richard Greager has been a popular guest artist for symphony orchestras in New Zealand and Australia. He has sung Rachmaninov's *The Bells* with the West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Froh in *Das Rheingold* with Sydney Symphony. Concerts in New Zealand include Britten's *War Requiem* and Beethoven *Symphony No. 9* with Auckland Philharmonia, and Froh in *Das Rheingold*, Berlioz's *Romeo and Juliet* and Stravinsky's *Pulcinella* with New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, a Three Tenors Concert in Lombardi Amphitheatre at Hawkes Bay, Schubert's *Schwanengesang* and *Messiah* in Wellington, Britten's *Les Illuminations* with Dunedin Sinfonia and Verdi *Requiem* and The Tower Concerts for Opera New Zealand. More recent concerts include Beethoven *Symphony No. 9* with Sydney Symphony, Vaughan Williams' *Serenade To Music* with Wellington Sinfonia and *The Bells* for Royal Melbourne Philharmonic.

Richard Greager has appeared in many video recordings, including *Gawain*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *La Traviata*, *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *The Turn of the Screw* and *Dialogue of the Carmelites*. He has also recorded the Berlioz *Requiem* and Schubert - *Six Masses*.

Richard Greager's Manager Worldwide is Judith Alexander: judith@artsmanagement.com.au
assisted by Sarah Thomas: sarah.thomas@artsmanagement.com.au
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Telephone (+61 2) 9211 9422 Facsimile (+61 2) 9211 9466