



Russell Harcourt Countertenor

Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (WAAPA, Perth)
"Russell Harcourt made an impressive King of the Fairies. His Oberon was consistently majestic; he moved around the stage as if it were his natural domain and his voice was informed by a slightly sinister quality that sounded entirely right."
Neville Cohn, *The West Australian*, October 16, 2007

Athamas in *Semele* (Royal Academy of Music, London)
"Harcourt however, not only possesses a beautiful voice and a fine technique, but proved himself to be one of the strongest actors in the show."
Calvin Wells, *Opera Britannia*, November 18, 2009

Athamas in *Semele* (Royal Academy of Music, London)
"The counter-tenor Russell Harcourt's Athamas was exceptional."
Peter Reed, *Opera Magazine*, January 2010

Sydney born Russell Harcourt studied voice with Graham Pushee and Dr. Rowena Cowley and graduated with Bachelor of Music from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music before completing a Master of Arts in Opera Performance (Distinction) from the Royal Academy of Music with Joy Mammen and Jonathan Papp.

Russell is currently studying part-time at the National Opera Studio and has been an associate of the Jette Parker Young Artists Programme at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden since 2008. He has performed in master classes for Emma Kirkby, Michael Chance, Andreas Scholl, Rosalind Plowright and Yvonne Kenny and he is an alumnus of the Britten-Pears Young Artist Programme.

His recent prizes and scholarships include the Hariclea Darclée Special Award for Excellence, The Sir Robert Askin Operatic Travelling Scholarship, Tait Memorial Trust Grant, Australian Music Foundation Awards, Ian Potter Cultural Trust Grant, Australia Council for the Arts Skills and Arts Development Grant and the Marten Bequest Travelling Scholarship. Also in 2008 Russell was the winner of the prestigious Dame Joan Sutherland Award, as well as the People's Choice Award at the same event.

Russell made his operatic debut in 2007 as Oberon *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. He made his Australian concert debut in 2009 as a guest artist at the Australian Festival of Chamber Music and made his Royal Opera House debut in the Crush Room in the Deloitte Ignite 2010 series.

Roles at the Royal Academy include Athamas *Semele* with Sir Charles Mackerras and Volano *Il Giasone* with Jane Glover. Other roles include Fox/Coachman (cover) *The Adventures of Pinocchio* for Opera North and Armindo (cover) *Partenope* for Opera Australia. Oratorio experience include alto soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, *Judas Maccabaeus*, *Israel in Egypt* and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*.

Future engagements include alto soloist in *St. Matthew Passion* in Leicester and Zelim (cover) *La verità in cimento* for Garsington Festival Opera.

Russell Harcourt's Manager in Australasia is Graham Pushee: graham@artsmanagement.com.au

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