

# NEIL BALFOUR

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## Bass-Baritone

Indian-Scottish Neil Balfour, is the first opera singer to be booked by the Glastonbury Festival as an artist "I cannot believe how powerful his voice is. I have never seen opera like he does it" - Haggis McLeod, head-programmer. He is the first performer to beatbox in an opera at Longborough Festival Opera and has premiered the roles of Nikolaus' Father in *Mysterious 44* (the first electronic opera) and La-La (role sponsored by the opera awards) in *A Shoe Full of Stars* (YAM Awards Best Opera 2018). "Neil is without a doubt one of the top singers I've ever worked with." - Ruth Mariner, Director.



Currently an emerging artist at the *National Opera Studio*, a *Concordia Artist*, the first classical sE Artist, director of [www.artsongstory.com](http://www.artsongstory.com) (compelling videos of classical art-song and their stories) and founder of the *Koko Koncerts* (emerging classical stars in a coffee shop). Neil is also in partnership with *Penhaligon's* British perfume house, *Moment* lenses, *GIK Acoustics*, *Soundbrenner* watches, *Percival* clothing and *Kapow* meggings. His voice-overs for YouTube channels have over 100 million views.

## OPERA + THEATRE

|                 |                                                 |                                                                                          |           |      |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|
| TBA             | <i>La fanciulla del West</i>                    | Opera North                                                                              | Postponed | 2020 |
| Guglielmo       | <i>Così fan tutte</i>                           | Mananan Opera, Isle of Man                                                               | Postponed |      |
| Singer          | <i>Comedy of Errors</i>                         | Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford-upon-Avon                                           | Postponed |      |
| Black Max       | <i>Dark Cabaret (Premiere)</i>                  | Glastonbury Contemporary Music Festival                                                  | Postponed |      |
| Mercurio        | <i>La Calisto</i>                               | Longborough Festival Opera                                                               |           | 2019 |
| Claggart        | <i>Billy Budd</i>                               | Royal Opera House (L&P Department)                                                       |           |      |
| Colline         | <i>La bohème</i>                                | Mananan Opera, Isle of Man                                                               |           |      |
| Cold Genius     | <i>King Arthur</i>                              | Glastonbury Contemporary Music Festival                                                  |           |      |
| Dad / La-La     | <i>A Shoe Full of Stars (Premiere)</i>          | International Opera Awards & Gestalt Arts & Opera Schmöpera (YAM Awards Best Opera 2018) |           | 2018 |
| Don Alfonso     | <i>Così fan tutte (cover &amp; performance)</i> | Opera Holland Park                                                                       |           |      |
| Colline         | <i>La bohème</i>                                | OFMAN Opera Studio, Madrid                                                               |           |      |
| Dottore         | <i>La traviata</i>                              | Devon Opera                                                                              |           |      |
| Don Pasquale    | <i>Don Pasquale</i>                             | Mananan Opera, Isle of Man                                                               |           | 2017 |
| Young Artist    | <i>Macbeth</i>                                  | Buxton Festival Opera                                                                    |           |      |
| Mustafà         | <i>L'italiana in Algeri</i>                     | Mananan Opera, Isle of Man                                                               |           |      |
| Colline & Don A | <i>La bohème &amp; Così fan tutte</i>           | Heritage Opera, nationwide tour                                                          |           |      |
| Lt. Ratcliffe   | <i>Billy Budd (Shadow role)</i>                 | Opera North                                                                              |           | 2016 |
| Figaro (cover)  | <i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>                       | Longborough Festival Opera                                                               |           |      |
| Father          | <i>Mysterious 44 (Premiere)</i>                 | Feelgood Theatre productions                                                             |           |      |
| Chorus          | <i>Aida</i>                                     | Opera North, nationwide tour                                                             |           | 2019 |
| Lord Ellington  | <i>La Vie parisienne</i>                        | Royal Northern College of Music                                                          |           | 2016 |
| Quince          | <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>                | Royal Northern College of Music                                                          |           |      |

# CONCERTS

|                                                |                                                      |      |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Song Recital                                   | &Piano Festival, Huddersfield                        | 2021 |
| Porgy and Bess <i>Gershwin arr. RRB</i>        | Leeds Philharmonic Orchestra, Leeds Town Hall        | 2020 |
| Early Stroll <i>Richard Barnard (Premiere)</i> | Recorded during Covid-19 lockdown, YouTube & Twitter |      |
| 18th Century Ballad Opera                      | Leeds Opera Festival, Leeds                          |      |
| Koko Koncerts I & II                           | Founder. 'Classical stars in a coffee shop' Leeds    |      |
| Lieder for Littl'uns Recital                   | Leeds Lieder Festival                                |      |
| Tour of Sicily as soloist                      | Dore Male Voice Choir                                | 2019 |
| Lunchtime Recital                              | King's Hall, Newcastle                               |      |
| Opera Favourites                               | Hull Urban Opera                                     |      |
| Grenfell Tower Memorial Concert                | Opera Holland Park                                   |      |
| Mass in Time of War <i>Haydn</i>               | Ilkley Choral Society                                |      |
| Lieder for Littl'uns Recital                   | Leeds Lieder Festival                                | 2018 |
| St. Matthew Passion <i>Bach</i>                | The Guards Chapel, London                            |      |
| St. Matthew Passion <i>Bach</i>                | The Painswick Singers                                |      |
| Commuter Songs <i>Bach</i>                     | Selby Arts Festival                                  |      |
| Operetta Concert <i>Gilbert &amp; Sullivan</i> | Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Manchester               |      |
| Cabaret Songs <i>Bolcom</i>                    | RNCM Spotlight Concert Series                        | 2017 |
| Songs of the Sea <i>Stamford</i>               | Moirs Male Voice Choir                               |      |
| Requiem <i>Mozart</i>                          | SingforPleasure, Keele Hall                          |      |
| Old American Songs <i>Aaron Copland</i>        | RNCM Spotlight Concert Series                        |      |
| Cheese <i>Lucy Armstrong (Premiere)</i>        | Bridgewater Hall, Manchester                         |      |

# COMPETITIONS + AWARDS

|                                       |                                      |      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| Elizabeth Harwood Singing Competition | Finalist                             | 2017 |
| David Clover Festival of Singing      | Winner of Lesley Garrett Opera Class |      |
| South Square Trust Scholar            | Scholarship                          |      |
| Frederic Cox Singing Competition      | Finalist                             | 2016 |
| David Clover Festival of Singing      | Winner of French Song & Lied Class   |      |
| Jane Anthony Memorial Award           | Scholarship (2 year)                 | 2015 |
| Opera North & RNCM                    | Mentor Scheme                        | 2014 |

# TRAINING

|                            |                                 |      |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| PGDip (Distinction)        | Royal Northern College of Music | 2017 |
| MMus (Distinction)         | Royal Northern College of Music | 2015 |
| Voice Training Level 1 & 2 | Estill                          | 2014 |
| BA (Hons.) Music (piano)   | Leeds College of Music          | 2010 |
| Grade 8 (piano and guitar) | ABRSM                           | 2007 |