NEIL BALFOUR

Bass-Baritone

BIOGRAPHY

Indian-Scottish Neil Balfour is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM) and the National Opera Studio. A former Britten-Pears and Concordia artist, he is the first opera singer to be booked by the Glastonbury Festival and the first to beatbox in an opera at Longborough Festival Opera.

In the current season Neil performs **Prince Yamadori** *Madama Butterfly* for Welsh National Opera, premieres **Jean Arp** *Sophie* for the Tête à Tête Opera festival and joins the chorus of Opera North in *Fidelio*. He also looks forward to attending a Samling Artist Residency.

Operatic performances include **Colline** *La bohème* (Mananan Opera & OFMAN Madrid Opera Studio), **Mercurio** *La Calisto* (Longborough Festival Opera), **Don Alfonso** *Così fan tutte* (RNCM), **Quince** *A midsummer night's dream* (RNCM), **Lord Ellington** *La vie Parisienne* (RNCM), **Dottore** *La Traviata* (Devon Opera), **Cold Genius** *King Arthur* (Glastonbury Festival), **Mustafà** *L'Italiana in Algeri* (Mananan Opera), **Don Pasquale** *Don Pasquale* (Mananan Opera), **Claggart** *Billy Budd Re-imagined* (The Royal Opera House L&P Department), **Young Artist** *Macbeth (*Buxton International Festival) and the nationwide tour of *Aida* (Chorus of Opera North).

Roles understudied include **Figaro** (cover) *Le nozze di Figaro* (Longborough Festival Opera) and **Lt. Ratcliffe** *Billy Budd* (Opera North).

Contemporary opera roles created for Neil include **Ibn Al-Haytham** *Al-Haytham's light* and **Texy/Everywhere** *Back into the world* (English Touring Opera), **Father** *Mysterious 44* (the first electronic opera), **Dad/La-La** *A shoe full of stars* (YAM Awards Best Opera 2018) and **Punch** *Crocodile* (a dark-web animated opera).

Concert performances have included Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess* (Leeds Philharmonic Orchestra), Haydn's *Mass in time of War,* Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* as well as an eclectic mix of song recitals for Leeds Lieder, &Piano, Britten-Pears Arts and the Leeds Opera Festival.

Neil is the first classical artist for sE Electronics and NORD (world-leading microphones & digital pianos), director of ArtSongStory (compelling videos of art-song) and founder of the Koko Koncerts (classical stars in a coffee shop). He is also in partnership with Penhaligon's British perfume house and Kapow meggings. His work as a voiceover artist has had over 100 million plays.

Outside of opera, Neil is a keen barista, audiophile and crossfitter.