

NEIL BALFOUR

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5th December 1988
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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 a *Concordia Artist*, the first classical *sE Artist*, director of 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 & 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 & 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	
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	2018
Lieder for Littl'uns Recital	Leeds Lieder Festival	
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	2017
Operetta Concert <i>Gilbert & Sullivan</i>	Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Manchester	
Cabaret Songs <i>Bolcom</i>	RNCM Spotlight Concert Series	
Songs of the Sea <i>Stamford</i>	Moirs Male Voice Choir	
Requiem <i>Mozart</i>	SingforPleasure, Keele Hall	2016
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