

# NEIL BALFOUR

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5th December 1988

Leeds, England

07962 488380

## 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.



He is currently 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), founder of *the Koko Konzerts* (emerging classical stars in a coffee shop) and is in partnership with *Penhaligon's*, the famous British perfume house and *Kapow* meggings. His voice-over work for YouTube channels have reached well over 100 million views.

## OPERA + THEATRE

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

# CONCERTS

<b>Porgy and Bess</b> <i>Gershwin arr. RRB</i>	Leeds Philharmonic Orchestra, Leeds Town Hall	2020
<b>Song Recital</b>	&Piano Festival, Huddersfield	
<b>Early Stroll</b> <i>Richard Barnard (Premiere)</i>	Recorded during Covid-19 lockdown, YouTube & Twitter	
<b>Koko Koncerts I &amp; II</b>	Founder. 'Classical stars in a coffee shop' Leeds	
<b>Lieder for Littl'uns Recital</b>	Leeds Lieder Festival	2019
<b>Tour of Sicily as soloist</b>	Dore Male Voice Choir	
<b>Lunchtime Recital</b>	King's Hall, Newcastle	
<b>Opera Favourites</b>	Hull Urban Opera	
<b>Grenfell Tower Memorial Concert</b>	Opera Holland Park	2018
<b>Mass in Time of War</b> <i>Haydn</i>	Ilkley Choral Society	
<b>Lieder for Littl'uns Recital</b>	Leeds Lieder Festival	
<b>St. Matthew Passion</b> <i>Bach</i>	The Guards Chapel, London	
<b>St. Matthew Passion</b> <i>Bach</i>	The Painswick Singers	2017
<b>Commuter Songs</b> <i>Bach</i>	Selby Arts Festival	
<b>Operetta Concert</b> <i>Gilbert &amp; Sullivan</i>	Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Manchester	
<b>Cabaret Songs</b> <i>Bolcom</i>	RNCM Spotlight Concert Series	
<b>Songs of the Sea</b> <i>Stamford</i>	Moirs Male Voice Choir	2016
<b>Requiem</b> <i>Mozart</i>	SingforPleasure, Keele Hall	
<b>Old American Songs</b> <i>Aaron Copland</i>	RNCM Spotlight Concert Series	
<b>Cheese</b> <i>Lucy Armstrong (Premiere)</i>	Bridgewater Hall, Manchester	

# COMPETITIONS + AWARDS

<b>Elizabeth Harwood Singing Competition</b>	Finalist	2017
<b>David Clover Festival of Singing</b>	Winner of Lesley Garrett Opera Class	
<b>South Square Trust Scholar</b>	Scholarship	
<b>Frederic Cox Singing Competition</b>	Finalist	2016
<b>David Clover Festival of Singing</b>	Winner of French Song & Lied Class	
<b>Jane Anthony Memorial Award</b>	Scholarship (2 year)	2015
<b>Opera North &amp; RNCM</b>	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