



Benson Wilson

Baritone

New Zealand-born Sāmoan baritone Benson Wilson is the winner of the prestigious 64th Kathleen Ferrier Award. That same year he was awarded the Most Outstanding Overseas Performer of the Royal Overseas League Competition, the Worshipful Company of Musicians Award, and was the 2018 winner of the Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngé Foundation Award and the People's Choice Award.

Recent and forthcoming engagements include company and role debuts as John Shears *Paul Bunyan* for English National Opera, John Sorel *The Consul* at Welsh National Opera (cover), Mirza *Der Gesang Der Zauberinsel* at the Salzburger Festspiele as a 2019 Salzburg Young Singer, and Marullo *Rigoletto* for Glyndebourne on Tour. On the concert platform he gives recitals for Oxford Lieder, Brighton and Kings Lynn Festivals with pianists Sholto Kynoch and Lucy Colquhoun. Benson is a 2019/2020 National Opera Studio young artist.

Previous operatic roles include Guglielmo *Così fan tutte* and Count Almaviva *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Bloomsbury Opera), Schabernack *Le Grand Macabre* with London Symphony Orchestra, Schaunard *La Bohème* (Festival Opera Napier), and Guglielmo *Così fan tutte*, Demetrius *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Assan *The Consul* as a scholar on the Guildhall School of Music & Drama Opera Course.

Benson regularly appears in concert in repertoire including Handel *Messiah*, Mozart *Requiem*, Faure *Requiem*, Duruflé *Requiem* and Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, and in 2016 he joined the BBC Symphony Orchestra for a Total Immersion Concert featuring works by Richard Rodney Bennett.

Prior to relocating to the UK, he won New Zealand's premiere singing competition, the Lexus Song Quest, and graduated with a BMus from the University of Auckland. Benson is a former young artist of the Georg Solti Accademia di Bel Canto, the Samling Young Artist Programme, the International Vocal Arts Institute, and New Zealand Opera School.