

Biraj Barkakaty

Counter Tenor

British born Biraj Barkakaty is fast gaining a reputation as one of the rising generation of up and coming Countertenors. The Harborough Mail quotes 'Biraj Barkakaty invested the role of Oberon with stately majesty' (Opera Minima 2005).

Recent solo engagements include Bach Cantata 175 with the Bach Vespers at Holy Trinity Series, Bach Cantata 17 with Bach in Baltimore and collaborations with Tempesta di Mare in Philadelphia. Opera credits include Joachim in 2008 (Handel's Susanna - Manhattan School of Music), Oronte in 2007 (Alcina), the title role in the US premiere of Handel's Silla at the Bay Area Opera Institute in 2007, Oberon in 2005 (Opera Minima), Athamas in 2004 (British Youth Opera,) Ottone in 2002 (Trinity College of Music) and Peaseblossom in 1991 and 1992 at the Aix - en - Provence Festival.

He currently sings with some of the most prestigious professional choirs on the East Coast including Marble Collegiate Church, the St Thomas Choir of Men and Boys, the Choir of Greenwich Connecticut and the Philadelphia Singers.

He is the newest member of the world renowned early music vocal ensemble ARTEK, and has also performed with Musica Sacra New York, the American Classical Orchestra, the Choir of St Ignatius Loyola with their Sacred Music in a Sacred Space series, the Bard Festival of Music in 2008 and the Weill Institute at Carnegie Hall as a member of the Professional Chorus for Haydn's Creation. For 4 years from 2002- 2006 Biraj was a member of the choir at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle where he performed in many royal events, tours and recordings.

He has performed under the baton with some of the most noted conductors in the world including Sir Richard Hickox, Andre Previn, and Helmuth Rilling, and collaborated with many notable early music specialists in Masterclasses and performances including Drew Minter, Julianne Baird, James Bowman, and Stephen Stubbs at the Seattle Academy of Baroque Opera in 2008.

A native of London, Biraj possesses a Bachelor's degree in History from the University of Manchester (UK), a Postgraduate Certificate (Distinction) and Postgraduate Advanced Diploma (Distinction) from Trinity College of Music in London. He graduated Magna cum Laude from the Manhattan School of Music in 2008 with a Master of Music Degree in Vocal Performance.

Recent engagements include Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass with Voices Chorale in April, the role of Oberon at the prestigious International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv in July and the role of Tolomeo with Bel Cantanti Opera in October.