

GARY GRIFFITHS – BARITONE

Welsh baritone Gary Griffiths is currently a student on the opera course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he was the 2009 winner of the coveted Gold Medal Competition. He initially trained as an actor at the Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London.

Gary has given recitals at many of the UK's major concert halls including the Royal Albert Hall, Wigmore Hall, Barbican Hall, Kings Place, Bridgewater Hall, Birmingham Symphony Hall and The Sage, Gateshead. He has worked closely with Iain Burnside and Nico de Villiers. Gary has previously been a Young Artist with the Steans Institute at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago. Also in the USA he has given recitals in New York and Washington D.C. In his native Wales he has won many competitions including MOCSA Young Welsh Singer of the Year. He was recently selected as a rising star in BBC Music Magazine.

In Summer 2011 Gary will make his professional company debut with Welsh National Opera in the role of Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*). In 2011-2012 Gary will be an Associate Artist at WNO where his roles will include Masetto (*Don Giovanni*), Claudio (*Béatrice et Bénédict*) and Schaunard in a new production of *La Bohème*. Roles include Mr Gedge (*Albert Herring*) for GSMD, Belcore (*L'Elisir d'Amore*) in Tuscany and Germano (*La Scala di Seta*) for British Youth Opera, Ford (*Falstaff*) at the Royal Albert Hall, The Dog and The Innkeeper (*The Cunning Little Vixen*) for Grange Park Opera directed by David Alden.

Future plans also include Marcello (*La Bohème*) for the Verbier Festival Academy, Fauré Requiem and Karl Jenkins' Gloria (World Premiere) at the Royal Albert Hall conducted by Brian Kay, Belshazzar's Feast at the Barbican Hall conducted by Martyn Brabbins and 'Winterreise' with Sholto Kynoch at the Oxford Lieder Festival.

Gary has been supported in his postgraduate studies since 2008 through award schemes administered by the Musicians Benevolent Fund, including the Maidment Scholarship and an Ian Fleming Award, and this year was the recipient of a highly prestigious Sybil Tutton Award.

Gary is also very grateful for the generous support given by many for his studies at the Guildhall School, including The Countess of Munster Musical Trust, The Prince of Wales Advanced Study Award (Arts Council of Wales), The Elizabeth Evans Trust, The Susan Chilcott Scholarship and Mr Chris Ball.