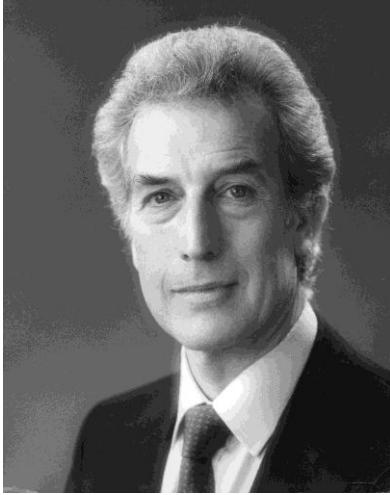


### Richard Van Allan CBE



Richard Van Allan CBE (1935-2008), described by the Times as ‘the opera singer who embodied all the virtues that make an artist complete – vocal beauty and technique, musicianship, language, dramatic ability, and stylistic authority’, was born in Nottinghamshire. As a boy he was briefly a church chorister, also trying his hand at Gilbert and Sullivan in the tenor role of ‘Nanki-Poo’ in *The Mikado*. After leaving school he became a police cadet followed by three years in the Special Investigation Branch of the Royal Military Police and a year as a Police Constable. He left the Police to study science at the City of Worcester Training College.

He took a teaching post in Birmingham to enable him to become a part time student at the Birmingham School of Music, studying with David Franklin, and made his début at Glyndebourne in the chorus in 1964. Thereafter he became a regular guest soloist with repertoire including: ‘The Speaker’ in *Die Zauberflöte*, ‘Leporello’ in *Don Giovanni*, ‘Colonel Lord Sir Francis Jowler’ in the world premiere of *The Rising of the Moon*, ‘Osmin’ in *Die entführung aus dem Serail*, ‘Superintendent Budd’ in *Albert Herring*, and ‘Pistola’ in *Falstaff*. He appeared with WNO as ‘Sparafucile’, ‘Banco’, ‘Zaccaria’, ‘Ramphis’, ‘Silva’, ‘Massimiliano’, ‘Don Basilio’ and ‘Grigoris’. With the Royal Opera House his roles included ‘Don Alfonso’, ‘Figaro’, ‘Leporello’, ‘Zaccaria’, ‘Don Pizarro’ and ‘Colline’. Later as a member of ENO, he added ‘Boris Godunov’, ‘Baron Ochs’, the title role in *Don Giovanni*, ‘Claggart’ and ‘Don Quichotte’ to his repertory. He has appeared with all the leading companies in the UK and many abroad, including the Metropolitan Opera, New York, the Colon, Buenos Aires and Paris Opera. He has recorded widely, receiving one Grammy Award and two nominations. In addition to his singing commitments he was for fifteen years the Director of the National Opera Studio until he retired from this position in 2001.

From that time he enjoyed appearing in supporting roles such as ‘Hobson’ – Peter Grimes with Osawa in *Mazumoto* Japan and in Florence, as ‘Tobias Micha’ in *The Bartered Bride* in Bologna, ‘2<sup>nd</sup> Priest’ in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, the speaking roles of ‘Frosch’ in *Die Fledermaus* for Glyndebourne Touring Opera and ‘the Haushofmeister’ in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with the WNO. His last performance was as ‘Folz’ in *Die Meistersinger* in the closing concert of the 2006 Edinburgh Festival.

Richard Van Allan was honoured with a CBE for services to opera in the New Year’s Honours 2002.

### About the Award

Richard was a dedicated trustee of the Sybil Tutton Charitable Trust and chaired the panel for the Sybil Tutton Awards auditions for a number of years. Following his death in 2008 it was agreed that an award be made available through the Sybil Tutton auditions, in Richard’s name, for an

Richard Van Allan Award



outstanding male singer. The inaugural Richard Van Allan award was made to bass Jimmy Holliday in 2009.