



KEEL WATSON

Bass-Baritone

[www.helensykesartists.co.uk](http://www.helensykesartists.co.uk)

A real 'character' singer and stage animal, Keel Watson is in demand for roles requiring his fine dark, bass baritone voice, and fine acting skills. He studied singing and trombone at Trinity College of Music and made his Royal Albert Hall and Barbican débuts with the concert version of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and his Queen Elizabeth Hall début in Mike Westbrook's *Coming Through the Slaughter*.

Keel Watson made his Royal Opera début in 2000 as the Bosun Billy Budd. He has also sung Caronte L'Orfeo English National Opera and Opera Zuid, Mandryka Arabella, and The Speaker in *The Magic Flute* for Opera North, Henry Davis Street Scene in Turin, Don Pizarro *Fidelio*, First Apprentice *Wozzeck* and Abbot Curlew River (at the BBC Proms) with Birmingham Opera Company, The Doctor Punch and Judy Casa da Música in Porto, Nourabad Les Pêcheurs de Perles, Tonio I Pagliacci and Jorg Stiffelio Opera Holland Park, Junius The Rape of Lucretia European Opera Centre, Elder Ott Susannah Opéra de Nantes, *Porgy and Bess* TCC Productions, Lisbon, Mephistopheles Faust Anna Livia International Opera Festival in Dublin, Achilla Giulio Cesare Opera Ireland, Papageno Die Zauberflöte Mid-Wales Opera and Opera Northern Ireland, Dr Bartolo Le Nozze di Figaro English Touring Opera, Scarpia Tosca Opera 2000, Kunrad Feuersnot and Giordano Andrea Chénier for Chelsea Opera Group, Wotan Das Rheingold at the Covent Garden Festival and Don Basilio The Barber of Seville and Leporello Don Giovanni for Garden Opera

Keel Watson's created roles include The Elder The Country of the Blind by Mark-Anthony Turnage at the Aldeburgh Festival/ENO Contemporary Opera Studio and Parlaine Palace in the Sky by Jonathan Dove for the ENO Baylis Programme.

Concerts and oratorios include his début with the London Symphony Orchestra under Kent Nagano with Bernstein's Whitehouse Cantata, also recorded by Deutsche Grammophon. His many concerts have included performances of *Messiah* at St John's, Smith Square and *Carmina Burana* at the Royal Festival Hall. His repertoire also includes *Pater Profundis* Symphony No. 8 (Mahler), *Belshazzar's Feast*, Rossini *Stabat Mater* and Vaughan Williams *Sea Symphony*.

He has sung as a guest soloist on BBC Radio 2's Friday Night is Music Night and is the voice of Harasta in Geoff Dunbar's new animated version of *The Cunning Little Vixen*.

Recent engagements include *Abbot Curlew River* at the BBC Promenade Concerts, *Dr Bartolo The Marriage of Figaro* for English Touring Opera and *Leporello Don Giovanni* for Garden Opera. Opera engagements in 2004/5 include *Colline La Bohème* for English Touring Opera and *Pluto Women Beware (Il ballo delle ingrate)* and *Neptune Ulysses comes Home (Il ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria)*, both for Birmingham Opera Company. Recent concerts include *Porgy and Bess* for the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Future concerts include *A Child of our Time* for the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and again with the CBSO at

the Worcester Three Choirs Festival.

### Repertorio

**Amahl and the Night Visitors** (Gian Carlo Menotti) : Balthazar  
15/12/1999 - 9/1/2000 Edinburgh Festival Theatre

**Andrea Chénier** (Umberto Giordano) : Roucher  
24/5/2004 - 6/6/2004 London, South Bank Centre

**Arabella** (Richard Strauss) : Mandryka  
3/5/1999 - 25/6/1999 Leeds, Opera North  
3/5/1999 - 6/6/1999 Leeds, Opera North

**Billy Budd** (Benjamin Britten) : Bosun  
20/8/2000 - 25/9/2000 London, Royal Opera

**Bohème, La** (Giacomo Puccini) : Colline  
12/9/2004 - 5/12/2004 London, English Touring Opera

**Don Giovanni** (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart) : il Commendatore  
23/1/2006 - 12/3/2006 Birmingham UK, Birmingham Opera Company

**Falstaff** (Giuseppe Verdi) : Sir John Falstaff  
2/3/1998 - 12/4/1998 London, South Bank Centre  
9/6/1996 - 13/7/1996 London, Opera Holland Park  
30/4/1996 - 31/5/1996

**Faust** (Charles Gounod) : Méphistophélès  
28/5/2001 - 24/6/2001 Dublin, Anna Livia Festival

**Feuersnot** (Richard Strauss) : Kunrad  
4/11/2000 - 25/11/2000 London, South Bank Centre

**Fidelio (Leonore)** (Ludwig van Beethoven) : Don Pizarro  
28/1/2002 - 14/3/2002 Birmingham UK, Birmingham Opera Company

**Giulio Cesare** (Georg Friedrich Händel) : Achilla  
15/10/2001 - 22/11/2001 Dublin, Opera Ireland

**Hänsel und Gretel** (Engelbert Humperdinck) : Peter  
24/4/2002 - 24/5/2002

**Midsummer Night's Dream, A** (Benjamin Britten) : Bottom  
Repertorio

**Nozze di Figaro, Le** (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart) : Bartolo  
2/2/2004 - 3/6/2004 London, English Touring Opera

**Orfeo, L** (Claudio Monteverdi) : Caronte  
27/9/2001 - 3/10/2001 Stadsschouwburg Eindhoven  
17/8/1999 - 18/10/1999 London, English National Opera (ENO)

**Pagliacci** (Ruggero Leoncavallo) : Tonio/Taddeo  
11/5/1998 - 27/6/1998 London, Opera Holland Park

**Pêcheurs de perles, Les** (Georges Bizet) : Nourabad  
20/5/2002 - 23/6/2002 London, Opera Holland Park

**Porgy and Bess** (George Gershwin) : Porgy  
24/9/1999 - 8/11/1999 Lisboa, Teatro Nacional de Sao Carlos

**Rape of Lucretia, The** (Benjamin Britten) : Junius  
24/9/2002 - 20/10/2002 Riga, Latvijas Nacionala Opera

**Ritorno di Ulisse in patria, Il** (Claudio Monteverdi) : Nettuno  
12/3/2005 - 8/5/2005 Birmingham UK, Birmingham Opera Company

**Stiffelio** (Giuseppe Verdi) : Jorg  
23/6/2003 - 8/8/2003 London, Opera Holland Park

**Street Scene** (Kurt Weill) : Henry Davis  
11/11/1995 - 20/12/1995 Torino, Teatro Regio  
10/8/1993 - 17/9/1993 London, English National Opera (ENO)

**Tristan und Isolde** (Richard Wagner) : Kurwenal  
25/4/2000 - 16/9/2000 Edinburgh Festival Theatre  
25/4/2000 - 5/9/2000 Edinburgh Festival Theatre

**Vêpres siciliennes, Les** (Giuseppe Verdi) : il signore di Béthune  
Repertorio

**Volpe astuta, La** (Leó Janáček) : Harasta  
Repertorio

**Wozzeck** (Alban Berg) : Erster Handwerksbursche (I garzone)  
8/1/2001 - 18/4/2001 Birmingham UK, Birmingham Opera Company  
8/1/2001 - 12/4/2001 Birmingham UK, Birmingham Opera Company

**Wozzeck** (Alban Berg) : Wozzeck  
Repertorio

**Zauberflöte, Die** (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart) : 1 oratore  
24/2/2003 - 7/7/2003 Leeds, Opera North

**Zauberflöte, Die** (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart) : Papageno  
24/8/1998 - 27/9/1998 Belfast, Grand Opera House