

## DAVID KEMPSTER Baritone



David Kempster was born in North Wales and studied at the Royal Northern College of Music. He joined English National Opera as a Principal Baritone in 1998, where his many roles included Marcello **La Bohème**, Lescaut **Manon Lescaut**, Conte di Luna **Il Trovatore**, Poacher **Cunning Little Vixen** and Teddy Foran in the world premiere of Mark Anthony Turnage's **The Silver Tassie**. David has since returned to ENO as Escamillo **Carmen**, Sharpless **Madama Butterfly**, Agamemnon **La Belle Hélène**, and most recently Belcore **Elixir of Love**. A long and productive relationship with Welsh National Opera has seen David appear in the title role as **Don Giovanni**, **Guillaume Tell** and **Nabucco**, Sharpless **Madama Butterfly** in the UK and Dubai, the Duke of Nottingham **Roberto Devereux**, Riccardo Forth **I Puritani**, Thaos **Iphigenie en Tauride**, Marcello **La Bohème**, and his hugely successful role debut as Iago **Otello**. Most recently, David appeared as Alfio / Tonio in WNO's double bill of **Cavalleria Rusticana / I Pagliacci** in celebration of the company's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Elsewhere in the UK, David has appeared at Glyndebourne as Escamillo **Carmen** and Falke **Die Fledermaus**; at Opera North as Iago, and Cecil **Maria Stuarda**; at Aldeburgh Festival as Balstrode in their acclaimed outdoor production of **Peter Grimes**, and at Buxton Festival as Nottingham, and Miller **Luisa Miller**. In the US, David made his debut as Sharpless with Dallas Opera, returning to sing Nottingham. He has also appeared as Lescaut **Manon Lescaut** for Florida Grand Opera. Other performances include Marco **Gianni Schicchi** at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Sharpless **Madama Butterfly** for the Royal Danish Opera, and Riccardo Forth **I Puritani** for Den Jyske Opera. David also appeared at the Royal Ballet in Will Tuckett's production of **Elizabeth**, which was filmed for Sky Arts.

On the concert platform, David has performed with leading orchestras, including Fauré **Requiem** with BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Orff's **Carmina Burana** with London Concert Orchestra, Elgar's **The Apostles** with the Hallé and **Dream of Gerontius** with Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and Handel's **Judas Maccabeus** with the London Mozart Players. He has appeared at the BBC Proms, National Eisteddfod of Wales, the Welsh Proms and the Machynlleth Festival. Recent performances include Peter **The Apostles** at the BBC Proms and **Aida** at the Royal Albert Hall, **Eugene Onegin** with the Hallé and Sir Mark Elder, the title role of **Prince Igor** and **Nabucco** for Chelsea Opera Group at Cadogan Hall, and **Leonore** at the Schlossfestspiele, Ludwigsburg. His recordings include Sévère in Donizetti's **Les Martyrs** for Opera Rara, chosen as Album of the Year at the 2016 International Opera Awards.

David is currently a member of the solo ensemble at the Royal Danish Opera, Copenhagen, where his roles have included the title role in **Rigoletto**, Sharpless **Madama Butterfly**, Jack Rance **La fanciulla del West**, Roc in **Exterminating Angel**, Iago **Otello**, Di Luna in Francisco Negrin's new production of **Il Trovatore**, Marcello **La Bohème**, and Scarpia **Tosca**.

His roles for the 19-20 season in Copenhagen include Escamillo **Carmen**, the title role in Sondheim's **Sweeney Todd**, and Giorgio Germont **La Traviata**. David will also return to Wales for a performance of Elgar's **Dream of Gerontius** with Cantorion Menai in Bangor.

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