

Bracegirdle, Michael - Tenor

Biography



Winner of the Emmy Destinn Award for Young Singers and a graduate of Durham University, Michael Bracegirdle previously enjoyed a successful career as a Finance Director in the UK. In 2003 he gave up his business career to further his vocal studies at the Royal Northern College of Music.

His **recent engagements** include **Jamie**(*Brothers*) with the Malmö Opera Orchestra / Icelandic Opera at The Copenhagen Opera Festival and as soloist with Sønderjyllands Symfoniorkester in their 2024 New Year's Concert series.

Michael's operatic career has taken him from the UK and mainland Europe to the Far East and the USA, **working with companies including** The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, English National Opera, The Danish Royal Opera, Welsh National Opera, The Israeli Opera, Opera Holland Park, Scottish Opera, English Touring Opera, Longborough Festival Opera, Mid Wales Opera, Theater Erfurt, Opéra de Rennes, Opéra de Limoges, and Opéra de Reims.

Selected roles from a broad repertoire include **Tamino** (*Die Zauberflöte*), **Parsifal** (*Parsifal*), **Siegfried** (*Die Walküre*), **Erik** (*Der Fliegende Holländer*), **Loge** (*Das Rheingold*), **Walther** (*Tannhäuser*), **Der Bucklige** (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*), **Valzacchi** (*Der Rosenkavalier*), **Eisenstein** (*Die Fledermaus*), **Laca** and **Steva** (*Jenůfa*), **Boris** and **Kudryash** (*Katya Kabanova*), **Filka Morozov** (*From The House Of The Dead*), **Canio** (*Pagliacci*), **Cavaradossi** (*Tosca*), **Pinkerton** (*Madame Butterfly*), **Luigi** (*Il tabarro*), **Rodolfo** (*La bohème*), **Ruggero** (*La rondine*), **Joe** (*La fanciulla del West*), **Radames** (*Aida*), **Borsa** (*Rigoletto*), **Don José** (*Carmen*), **Le Prince** (*L'amour des trois oranges*), **Hoffmann** (*Les Contes D'Hoffmann*), **Jason** (*Medée*), **Father Grenville** (*Dead Man Walking*), **Judge Danforth** (*The Crucible*), **Lysander** (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), **Tom Rakewell** and **Sellem** (*The Rake's Progress*).

In **concert** Michael has performed at The Barbican Hall, The Queen Elizabeth Hall, The Bridgewater Hall and with the Huddersfield Choral Society, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra. He has broadcast for BBC Radio 3 and 4, Danish Radio and with Mezzo TV.

Repertoire

Opera

Bizet, G.	Carmen	<i>Don José</i>
Bjarnsason, D./	Brothers	<i>Jamie</i>
Perski, K.		
Britten, B.	A Midsummer Night's Dream	<i>Lysander</i>
Cherubini, L.	Medée	<i>Jason</i>
Cornelius, P.	The Barber of Baghdad	<i>Nureddin*</i>
Dudley, A./ Jones, T.	The Doctor's Tale	<i>The Vet</i>
Hannon, N.	Sevastopol	<i>Various characters</i>
Heggie, J.	Dead Man Walking	<i>Father Grenville</i>
Janáček, L.	From The House Of The Dead	<i>Luka/Filka</i>
		<i>Big Prisoner/Nikita</i>
		<i>Laca, Steva*</i>
		<i>Boris, Kudryach*</i>
Maxwell-Davies, P.	Katya Kabanova	<i>Sandy/First Officer</i>
Leoncavallo, R.	The Lighthouse	<i>Canio</i>
Mozart, W.A.	Pagliacci	<i>Tito*</i>
	La clemenza di Tito	<i>Tamino*</i>
	Die Zauberflöte	<i>First Armed Man*</i>
		<i>Monostatos</i>
Offenbach, J.	Tales of Hoffmann	<i>Hoffmann</i>
Paer, F.	Leonora	<i>Florestan*</i>
Prokofiev, S.	L'amour des trois oranges	<i>Le Prince</i>
Puccini, G.	La bohème	<i>Rodolfo*</i>
	Madama Butterfly	<i>Pinkerton*</i>
	La rondine	<i>Ruggero</i>
	Il tabarro	<i>Luigi</i>
	Tosca	<i>Cavaradossi</i>
Smetana, B.	The Bartered Bride	<i>Jenik*</i>
Strauss, R.	Die Frau ohne Schatten	<i>Der Bucklige</i>
	Der Rosenkavalier	<i>Valzacchi</i>
Stravinsky, I.	The Rake's Progress	<i>Sellem</i>
		<i>Tom Rakewell</i>
Tchaikovsky, P.I.	Eugene Onegin	<i>Lensky*</i>
Verdi, G.	Aida	<i>Radames</i>
	Macbeth	<i>Malcolm</i>
	La Traviata	<i>Alfredo</i>
	Il trovatore	<i>Ruiz</i>
Wagner, R.	Der fliegende Holländer	<i>Erik</i>
	Parsifal	<i>Fourth Esquire*</i>
		<i>Parsifal</i>
	Das Rheingold	<i>Loge</i>
	Tannhäuser	<i>Walther</i>
	Die Walküre	<i>Siegmond</i>
Ward, R.	The Crucible	<i>Judge Danforth</i>

Symphonic/Oratorio

Bach, J.S.	Magnificat in D
	St. John Passion
Beethoven, L.van	Mass in C major
	Missa Solemniss
	Choral Symphony
Berlioz, H.	Requiem
Coleridge-Taylor, S.	Hiawatha
Dvorak, A.	Stabat Mater
Elgar, E.	The Dream of Gerontius
	The Light of Life
Gounod, Ch.	St. Cecilia Mass
Händel, G.F.	Messiah
Haydn, J.	Nelson Mass
	Creation
	Paukenmesse
	Mass in Time of War
	Theresienmesse
Mahler, G.	Das Lied von der Erde
Mendelssohn, F.	Elijah
	Walpurgisnacht
	Hymn of Praise
Mozart, W.A.	Requiem
	Mass in C minor (Great)
	Vesperae Solennes
	de Confessore
	Coronation mass
Puccini, G.	Messa di Gloria
Ramirez, A.	Misa Criolla
Rossini, G.	Petite Messe Solenne
	Stabat Mater
Saint-Saëns, C.	Oratorio de Noël
Schubert, F.	Mass no. 2, 4, 5, 6
Shumann, R.	Dichterliebe
Tippett, M.	A Child of Our Time
Vaughan-Williams, R.	A Serenade to Music
Verdi, G.	Requiem
Vivaldi, A.	Magnificat

*sung in English

Reviews

Brothers, Copenhagen Opera Festival, Icelandic Opera, Malmö Opera Orchestra

Michael Bracegirdle as Jamie and Hrólfur Sæmundsson, who plays the colonel, not only sang well, but their acting was also fine.

- *Ungt Teaterblad*

...and the tenor Michael Bracegirdle, who brilliantly portrays younger brother Jamie's development from a despondent abuser to a reformed character.

- *Operamagasinet Ascolta*

Die Walküre, Saffron Hall

Michael Bracegirdle's passionate and determined Siegmund was another outstanding contribution, navigating sensitively between the assured conviction of a proven hero, and the tragic uncertainty of a man abandoned by a father he never truly knew, constantly finding himself embroiled in quarrels he can neither justify nor solve. From an authoritative and mellifluous start, Bracegirdle went on to deliver a superb Siegmund full of integrity and honour. Bracegirdle's lyrical tenor was well up to the challenge of the role; Winterstürme came across beautifully as Bracegirdle settled into its phrasing, and his cries of *Wälse!* had a fantastic sense of urgency.

- *Operissima*

Jenůfa, Opéra de Reims

The British tenor Michael Bracegirdle was as fine a Laca as I have ever seen. Vocally he reminded me of Philip Langridge, and he rose magnificently to the extra demands of the 1904 score; but he also has the physical attributes necessary for his louring presence to gnaw away at us before emerging as a sturdy but sensitive companion by the end.

- *Opera (by Mark Audus - responsible for the recently revised Universal Edition)*

The Crucible, Dicapo Opera Theatre

Michael Bracegirdle was a magnificently imperious Judge Danforth...

- *New York Times*

Carmen, Stowe Opera

...But the palm must go to the Don José of Michael Bracegirdle. Here is what the Italians call an 'emergent voice', smooth throughout its compass, with effortlessly ringing high notes that he can subdue to a *fil di voce*, suggesting that he might be one of the few tenors able to end 'Celeste Aida' in the way that Verdi intended...

- *Opera*

L'amour des trois oranges, Opéra de Limoges

Michael Bracegirdle possesses a supple, luminous timbre and is entirely convincing dramatically.

- *Le Populaire du Centre*

Jenůfa, Opéra de Rennes

The confrontation of tenors turns to the advantage of Michael Bracegirdle, Laca, devoured by his bitterness, but who will ultimately find the light... imposes a convincing portrait with a mighty instrument.

- *Res Musica*

The commitment of the performer allows him to reveal all the facets of his character, to express the goodness that lies behind its primary reactions.

The voices are all very good.... the obvious talent of Pavla Vykopalova (Jenůfa) and Michael Bracegirdle (Laca).

- *Ouest-France*

Katya Kabanova, Scottish Opera On Tour

...Michael Bracegirdle played Boris with piercing bravado.

- *The Scotsman*

The Doctor's Tale, ROH2

The performances are strong, especially Sadhbh Dennedy and Michael Bracegirdle - two stunning voices.

- *Tottenham Journal*

...Michael Bracegirdle was the most virile vet in operatic history.

- *What's On Stage*

Tosca, English Touring Opera

As Cavaradossi, Michael Bracegirdle phrases his arias intelligently...

- *The Daily Telegraph*

...Michael Bracegirdle was bracingly robust and never less than ardent...

- *The Guardian*

...Michael Bracegirdle's Cavaradossi seizes his vocal opportunities with some panache.

- *The Observer*

Carmen, Opera Up Close

...a striking performance from Mike Bracegirdle as José.

- *The Independent*

Katya Kabanova, English Touring Opera

...Michael Bracegirdle's forthright Kudryash, a real match for his Varvara...

- *The Times*

The Bartered Bride, Mid Wales Opera

Michael Bracegirdle throws himself into his high-lying role with heroic abandon and cuts a rogueish figure.
- *The Times*

Jenůfa, English Touring Opera

...Michael Bracegirdle, a handsome, feckless Števa...
- *Opera*

Eugene Onegin, English Touring Opera

Another fine young English singer, tenor Michael Bracegirdle, makes the most of his opportunities as the poet Lensky, mustering as much power as finesse when roused, and savouring his great pre-duel aria...
- *The Guardian*

There were strong performances, too, from Roland Wood as Onegin and Michael Bracegirdle as Lensky.
- *The Herald*

The immaculate English diction of Roland Wood's Onegin, Michael Bracegirdle's Lensky, gave consistent pleasure in Hackney's ideally proportioned auditorium...
- *The Sunday Times*

A Midsummer Night's Dream, English Touring Opera

Each of the four lovers boasts a terrific voice and vivid, contrasting personality...
- *Classical Source*

A Midsummer Night's Dream, Longborough Festival Opera

...there's some admirable singing from Michael Bracegirdle (Lysander)...
- *The Times*

Macbeth, Chelsea Opera Group

Michael Bracegirdle as Malcolm has even less to do, but he did it very well indeed.
- *Music & Vision Daily*

Michael Bracegirdle sang Malcolm with assurance and feeling for the situation.
- *Seen and Heard*