

Biraj Barkakaty

Counter Tenor

A native of London, England, Biraj's recent engagements include the Third Israelite in Handel's Esther with the Chicago based Music of the Baroque under Jane Glover, Alto Soloist in Vivaldi's Gloria for the Wesmoreland Congregational United Church, an ensemble member in the world premiere of Sasquatch : The Opera at the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe Festival , and the role of Mago Cristiano in Handel's Rinaldo for Opera Mission in 2016. Performance highlights include being the first Countertenor to perform at the renowned Mallery Recital Series at Rutgers University in 2016, the role of the Eunuch in Dina Pruzhansky's 'Shulamit' at the JCC Manhattan in 2016, the role of Pino in the world premiere workshop of Larry Lipkis' Simonetta and the Chasseur in Charpentier's Acteon with Haymarket Opera in 2014. Opera credits include the Alto Soloist in the World Premiere of 'Veal' by Harrison Atelier, Pangar in the concert premiere of 3 Weeks by Yoav Gaal at LABA, and the world premiere of Empire Opera's Sweet Dreams , where Biraj created the role of the Child. Other significant roles and performances include the inaugural project of the Yale Choral Artists under William Christie in 2012, Oberon with the Aspen Music Festival in 2011 conducted by Jane Glover, and the same role with the International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv in 2009, Polinesso in Handel's Ariodante for the Hub Opera Ensemble in 2010, Tolomeo with Bel Cantanti Opera (2009), and the title in role in the US premiere of Handel's Silla at the Bay Area Opera Institute (2007). He will also be a featured singer in the upcoming web series The Opera Den, produced by Classical Voice Television.

From 2002-2006 Biraj was an Alto Lay Clerk with the Queen's choir at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle where he performed in many tours, recordings and royal occasions including the marriage of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles in 2005 and the live televised broadcast of Queen Elizabeth's 80th birthday celebrations. Biraj is a graduate of the University of Manchester, Trinity College of Music in London, and the Manhattan School of Music. He currently resides in Washington DC, where he is a member of the full time professional choir at the National Cathedral.