

Biraj Barkakaty

Counter Tenor

Biraj Barkakaty's recent engagements include the Chasseur in Charpentier's Acteon/Jugement de Pan with Haymarket Opera in March, and the Alto Soloist in the world premiere of 'Veal' by Harrison Atelier Productions, Opera credits include Pangar in the concert premiere of 3 Weeks by Yoav Gaal at LABA, the world premiere of Empire Opera's Sweet Dreams, where Biraj created the role of the child, Oberon with the Aspen Music Festival in July 2011 under the baton of Jane Glover, Polinesso in Handel's Ariodante for the Hub Opera Ensemble in November 2010, Tolomeo with Bel Cantanti Opera (2009), Oberon with the International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv (2009) and Opera Minima in the UK (2005), and the title in role in the US premiere of Handel's Silla at the Bay Area Opera Institute (2007).

A native of London, Biraj holds a Bachelor's degree in History from the University of Manchester (UK), and vocal degrees with Distinction from Trinity College of Music in London and the Manhattan School of Music (Magna cum Laude).

From 2002-06 Biraj was an Alto Lay Clerk in the full-time professional choir at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle where he performed in many royal events, tours and recordings. He now sings regularly with many of the nation's leading professional ensembles including Musica Sacra, the Concert series at St Ignatius Loyola, The New York Virtuoso Singers, the St Thomas Choir of Men and Boys, the Choir of St John the Divine Cathedral, Marble Collegiate Church, the Bard Music Festival, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, ARTEK (2008-09) and the Yale Choral Artists.

Biraj was a semi-finalist in the Rochester Oratorio Society Classical Idol Competition in 2012, and a finals runner-up in the inaugural Handel Aria Competition in 2013. Future engagements include the Vivaldi Gloria with Westchester Oratorio Society in May and in June he will be a professional apprentice with the Il Cuore Canta Young Artist Program in Cold Spring, New York.