



# *Devon Harrison*

## **Bass Baritone**

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Devon was raised and educated in London. Wanting to improve on his vocal potential Devon started private tuition with Adrienne Johns and joined the Voices Theatre Company. With "VTC" Devon made his operatic singing debut in the title role of "Don Giovanni," performed in concert. He later sang the title role in Mendelssohn's "Elijah," and the bass roles in Bach's "Wachet Auf" and Haydn's "Nelson Mass".

Devon later went on to study at Trinity College of Music, studying initially with Morag Noble and John Wakefield, and later Iris Dell'Acqua. While there he gained his Dip TCL in Voice and Performance, and was Highly Commended in the Elisabeth Schumann prize for Lieder.

While studying at Trinity, Devon featured in several productions which included **The Compere** in the British premiere of '**Four Saints in Three Acts**' by Virgil Thompson and **Ravel's "Les enfants et les Sorciles."** Vaughan Williams '**Serenade to Music.**' Devon's oratorio repertoire includes also the role of '**Christus**' and bass solos in '**The St John Passion**', '**Mozart Requiem**' and '**The Gates of Justice**', cantata for baritone, and tenor - by Dave Brubeck.

Devon had begun to build an impressive of work even prior graduating developing his skills in productions such as "**Un ballo in Maschera**", "**Iris**", "**Eugene Onegin**" for Opera Holland Park and "**Turandot**" for English Festival Op for whom he covered the role of the "**Mandarin**".

Devon's talent as both a singer and performer were becoming increasingly in demand. This gave him the opportunity to perform roles such as "**Sweeney Todd**" and '**Tonio**' in "I Pagliacci" both for Surrey Opera, the latter production being at the Minack Theatre in Cornwall; **Apollo** in Monteverdi's "**Orfeo**" for Kent Opera at the Theatre Royal, Bath, as **Frank** in **The Flying Fox**, (Die Fledermaus) for Tete-A-Tete' at the Battersea Arts Centre. These were followed by performances as '**Frazier**' in **Porgy and Bess** for TCC Productions in Lisbon.

Following on from his successful portrayal of the crooked 'lawyer' Frazier, Devon went on to sing the roles of **Don Alfonso** in "**Così fan Tutti**", **Osmín** – **The Abduction from the Seraglio**, **Zuniga and Morales** from "**Carmen**" and **Ferrando** – "**Il Trovatore**" all for Pavilion Opera; with three of the productions being performed in Tokyo.

Devon has also been involved in the premiere of several productions, creating such roles as '**Chaka**' - title role – for CBTO, at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham; '**Father of the Son of Hope**' in "**Cry of Innocence**" based on the Stephen Lawrence story, for Gynyame at the Greenwich Theatre, . '**Mark**' in the "**Silent Twins**" by Errollyn Wallen, for Almeida Opera, '**Olimpio**' and '**Prince Colonna**' in the World Premiere of Havergal Brian's "**The Cenci**" at the QEH.

More recently he has performed the roles of 'Banquo', in Verdi's Macbeth, Dr. Miracle in "**The Tales of Hoffman**", '**The Mandarin**' from "**Turandot**" and '**Mephistopheles**' from Gounod's "**Faust**," for Midland Opera.

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Devon's versatility as a singer and performer has enabled him tour & perform extensively in Australia, The Caribbean, India Europe and Japan. During which time he has developed a rich and varied concert repertoire which includes not only European art songs and operatic arias but also Caribbean folk songs, spirituals and jazz standards. He currently performs regularly on the concert platform with the highly regarded pianist and accompanist Janine Smith.

#### **Reviews.....**

**The Silent Twins-Almeida opera Jul `07...Devon Harrison is priceless as Mark, Jennifer's tongue tied pen-pal...**  
...The Guardian

**Billie Holiday Story- role- Paul Robeson** (European & UK tour 2006

**...and in particular Devon Harrison, whose tremendous version of OI Man River achieved that rare thing of matching the original. .... Bolton Evening News.**

**....Devon Harrison sings OI' Man River with angry power...** The Guardian

**...Perhaps the real star in terms of vocal prowess was Devon Harrison as Paul Robeson, who sang in a valiant baritone and acted with solicitous grace...** The Independent.

#### **Showboat**

**...and Devon Harrison providing the spine tingling highlight with a rather special rendition of 'OI Man River'**  
...Music-dash website.

**.... a strong voice with considerable depth and colour... good dramatic presence and A gift for characterisation . .... David Sonin. Hampstead & Highgate Gazette.**