

# Shaun Dixon

## Tenor

Shaun has been performing from the age of 9 developing his craft in New Zealand via concert, Television, and Opera . He moved to London in 2005 to further his career internationally and currently lives in Cardiff, Wales. Of note is his private training with the late Luciano Pavarotti where Shaun was invited to Italy after being heard during his world tour which included New Zealand.

**Nationality :** New Zealand Born 21/03/1977. Dual NZ/British Citizen since April 2016.

**Training:** National Opera Studio, London for 2006/07 year, PGDip (Opera) (2006) , BBIOS, Royal College of Music, London supported by the Irene Hansen and Charles Branchini Awards; Auckland Opera Studio (2002-2004) private opera training institution . Auckland University, NZ , Bachelor of Music (1999) Pears –Britten Scholar . Richard Millar Vocal Pedagogy Summer Course (Melbourne 1999).

**Voice teachers:** Ryland Davies (2005-2007) Luciano Pavarotti (July – Dec 2000), Beatrice Webster (1996-1999) Audrey Paterson (1990-1995), Francis Stockwell (1988).

**Conductors:** Carlo Rizzi, Daniel Lipton, Francesco Pasqualetti , Wyn Davies, Leone Magiera, Pablo Heras-Casado, Janos Acs , Simon Philippo, Andrew Greenwood, Peter Robinson, Matthew Waldren. John Andrews, Philip Hesketh.

### Operatic roles:

*Eugene Onegin (Lensky \* in Russian) Welsh National Opera (Oct-Dec 2017), (In English), Stanley Hall Opera ,UK(May/June 2011) , British Youth Opera 2006*  
*Die Fledermaus (Alfred), Welsh National Opera ( June 2017), BBIOS, RCM 2006*  
*La Boheme (Rodolfo) , Opera Holland Park (2016), Opera NZ (2014) , Welsh National Opera (2012), Opéra de Baugé (France July 2011), Opera factory, NZ 2002*  
*Carmen (Don Jose) Zomeropera ( Belgium June 2015)*  
*Madama Butterfly(Pinkerton) , Opera Bohemia (Scotland Nov 2014) Opéra de Baugé (France/London July/Oct 2014), (Goro\*), Glyndebourne(Oct-Dec 2016)*  
*Der Fliegende Holländer (Der Steuermann) NZ Opera ( Sept – Oct 2013)*  
*Aida (Radames) Opéra de Baugé (London Rose Theatre Jan 2014 / France July 2013), Shrewsbury Symphony (March 2013)*  
*La Traviata (Alfredo)Welsh National Opera(2012), Opéra de Baugé (France July 09), WNO\* (Oct-Dec 2009), Scottish Opera\* 08.*  
*Tosca (Cavaradossi) Opéra de Baugé (France July 2012), Charles Court Opera,UK (June 2011)*  
*Rigoletto (Duke of Mantua), Welsh National Opera (June 2010) , Opéra de Baugé (France July 2010), (Borsa), NBRNZ Opera 2004*  
*Manon (Des Grieux\*), Scottish Opera 08/09*  
*Gogmagog (Tenor) world premiere at the coliseum commission for English National Opera*  
*The Nightingale and the Rose (The Student)(World premiere) RCM*  
*L'heure espagnole (Gonzalve), BBIOS, RCM*  
*Idomeneo (Arbace) Auckland Opera Studio, NZ 2004*  
*Lakmé (Frédéric /Gerald\*) Canterbury Opera, NZ 2002*  
*Galileo (Bellarmino) (World premiere) Auckland University, NZ 2001*  
*Giulio Cesare (Nireno) Auckland City Opera, NZ 1998*  
*(\*Indicates employed as lead cover)*

### Oratorio:

Tenor soloist for: Beethoven 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony Royal Philharmonic Orchestra ; Verdi Requiem Dorset Guild of Singers, Perth Choral Society Scotland; Handel Messiah, Gloucester Choral Society, Perth Choral Society, Mendelssohn Elijah Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir ; Stabat Mater Dvorak , Leicester Philharmonic , Harpenden Choral Society; St Cecilia Mass Gounod, Perth Choral Society; Haydn Seasons, Abingdon Music Society, Bach St John Passion Lea Singers; Messa di Gloria Puccini, South Essex Choral; Coleridge-Taylor Hiawatha High Wycombe Choral; NZ: Bach St Matthew Passion ;Lloyd-Webber Requiem ,Beethoven Mass in C, Chichester Psalms, Schubert Mass in G .

## Reviews:

La Boheme 2016: "As Rodolfo, Shaun Dixon's easy-going persona was coupled with a firm, high-lying tenor with plenty of squillo." (Opera Magazine); "...is all twinkly-eyed virility and gleaming high notes" (Guardian).  
"...thrillingly sung by Shaun Dixon" (The Observer) .

La Boheme 2014: "It was great to see Shaun Dixon again, really getting his lungs around the role of Rodolfo. He has a believable stage presence and his singing was faultless." (Christchurch press)

Der Fliegende Holländer: "Shaun Dixon relishes his role as the Steersman. He has a tenor voice of rare quality and beautiful tone with acting talent to spare. His portrayal of a bawdy leader of sailors is exceptional" (Wellington) "....Dixon is infinitely watchable, plus his voice is wonderfully clear and bright: a welcome reprieve from Wagner's dense, stormy sea score in Act 1. Dixon is a versatile performer, adding just the right measure of humour and buffoonery in Act 3" (Auckland) ( www.theatreview.org.nz ); "The large part of the Steersman was vividly sung by Shaun Dixon" ( Listener Magazine ); " .. Dixon exceptional when singing of his love " ( NZ Herald ); " ..Shaun Dixon's impish Steersman is an explay crowd pleaser with his foolish antics and jewel-like croons " (www.lumiere.net.nz) .

Aida : " Shaun Dixon proved to have an excellent spinto tenor voice tackling the aria with clarity precision and freshness " (www.bachtrack.com) . " All the solo singers provided some thrilling moments but special mention must be made of tenor Shaun Dixon (Radames) whose rich-toned voice and impressive vocal range were quite memorable" (www.stropshirelive.com )

Eugene Onegin : "The New Zealand Tenor Shaun Dixon was in his element as Lensky" (Opera, Sept 2011)

Rigoletto: "WNO were fortunate to have Shaun Dixon as reserve for the indisposed Gwyn Hughes Jones, singing with complete aplomb and immaculate style..... Dixon also has excellent presence and is a better actor than most spaghetti regulars." (The Artsdesk.com, June 2010)

Handel Messiah: "No one could better soloist Shaun Dixon in strength and clarity of voice and the calmness, assurance and comfort his mien bespoke. He was wonderful "(Perth Advertiser, Scotland Dec 12, 2008)

National Opera Studio Showcase: "Shaun Dixon sang with Italianate warmth in the title role of Roberto Devereux... "polished form as Alfredo" (Opera, July 2007) "Fine tenors are the rarest operatic birds, and his ringing tones and good stage persona ensured a successful career in the making" (Musical Pointers Web review)

Die Fledermaus: "Shaun Dixon revealed an agile, at times quite Italianate tenor as Alfred – I loved his snatches of 'E lucevan le stelle' from the prison cell." (Music- web international) "Shaun Dixon's wonderfully Dotty Alfred furnished an appealing tenor sound that would certainly be on my shopping list" (Opera Now, April 2006)

Night at the Opera gala concert: "Taking out some of the evening's best tunes, Dixon was charismatic on stage, with a voice of athletic grace and expressive power. "(The Press, Christchurch, NZ)

Andrew Lloyd-Webbers' Requiem: "Of the soloists, Dixon impressed with his attractive, virile voice and secure platform stature. He inspires belief. "(The Press, Christchurch, NZ)

Wellington Recital: "For the opera house. Dixon is well equipped. He is technically proficient, has excellent breath control and histrionic ability" (The Evening Post, NZ)

Auckland Recital: "... everywhere an unhibited, emotional verismo that half-gasps its way through beautifully turned words and sets the audience cheering" .... "Melting moments that carried you heavenwards" (New Zealand Herald)