

The Wessex Award Celebration Recital

14th May 2017

The Wessex Award, instituted in 1997, provides a bursary for a deserving young singer from the Glyndebourne Chorus, and is funded by events organized by the Wessex Glyndebourne Association. This evening's recital features the 2016 winner, Edmund Danon, accompanied by Duncan Williams.

Performers' Biographies

Edmund Danon - Bass Baritone

Edmund grew up in London and began singing as a chorister at the London Oratory. He read aerospace engineering alongside a choral scholarship at Bristol University and studied singing with Angela Hickey. He was awarded a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music, where he studied with Mark Wildman and Iain Ledingham, supported by the Josephine Baker trust.

On the concert platform engagements have included Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, the Bach St John and St Matthew Passions, Haydn's *Creation*, Handel's *Messiah*, the Mozart *Requiem*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, the Dvorak *Requiem*, Baird's *Five Poems of the Spirit*, Finzi's *In Terra Pax*, Stanford's *Songs of the Fleet* and Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*.

Edmund has been a member of the Glyndebourne Chorus in 2016 and 2017, covering Masetto (*Don Giovanni*) for the 2016 tour and playing Lackey (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) in the 2017 festival. Operatic work for other companies has included Mozart's *Figaro*, Don Alfonso (*Così fan Tutte*), and Dandini (*La Cenerentola*).

He currently lives in London and studies with Dinah Harries.

Duncan Williams

Duncan studied at the Royal College of Music and was subsequently offered the position of Trainee Répétiteur at English National Opera under the tutelage of Sir Mark Elder. He then became a full time member of the music staff of Opera North and subsequently at English National Opera. Since 1997 he has been working freelance for all the major international festivals, including Salzburg and Glyndebourne. Duncan has had a close relationship with the latter where he specialises in 19th and 20th century German and Czech repertoire. He has collaborated with numerous internationally renowned conductors including Robin Ticciati, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Mark Elder, Kazushi Ono, Jiří Bělohlávek, Sir Charles Mackerras and Vladimir Jurowski.

He held a teaching position at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for many years and is in demand for auditions for all the major opera houses. Duncan lives in Scotland.

News of recent Award winners

Angharad Lyddon (2016) will sing in Jonathan Dove's *Mansfield Park* at The Grange Festival this September. Padraic Rowan (2015) is spending a year with Oper Stuttgart gaining wide experience in various roles. Gabriela Istoc (2011) sang Violetta in BBC2's 2015 production of *La Traviata*. Aoife O'Sullivan (2009) is starring in productions by Opera North and ENO. Malin Christensson (2005) has recently sung with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and with Houston Grand Opera. Victoria Simmonds (1999) frequently appears at Garsington and Opera Holland Park, and will sing the role of Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) this summer at OHP. Wonderful to see their careers blossoming!

This evening's programme

Voli Colla Sua Tromba	Ariodante (Handel)
Madamina...	Don Giovanni (Mozart)
Elle M'aime!	Werther (Massenet)
Epouse Quelque Brave Fille	Manon (Massenet)
Questo Amor	Edgar (Puccini)
Short Interval	
Nell Mondo e Nell'abisso	Tamerlano (Handel)
Fahrt Zum Hades	Schubert
Fear No More the Heat of the Sun	Finzi
Look! Through the port...	Billy Budd (Britten)
Aprite un po' quegl'occhi	Il Nozze di Figaro (Mozart)