



## Christian Immler baritone

Christian Immler trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with Rudolf Piernay, won the International Nadia et Lili Boulanger Competition in Paris in 2001 and has since worked as a soloist with major orchestras and conductors all over the world.

Although also known for singing Handel, Haydn, Mozart and, increasingly, Mahler, running down the spine of Christian's career has been the music of J.S. Bach. Having sung the *B minor Mass*, *St John Passion* and *St Matthew Passion* with Marc Minkowski and Les Musiciens du Louvre, he has also performed these works with Philippe Herreweghe, Daniel Harding, Michel Corboz, Jos van Veldhoven, Leonardo García Alarcón (receiving a 'Diapason d'Or' for 'Music for Weddings' by Bach and Böhm) and Ensemble Pygmalion.

Christian's musical interests and talents are very broad. Recent projects have included Handel's *Dixit Dominus* with Concentus Musicus and Ivor Bolton, Krenek's *Orpheus* with Lothar Zagrosek (Berlin Konzerthaus), Mozart's *C minor Mass* with Giovanni Antonini (Salzburg Festival), the world premiere of Hellstenius's *The moon eats humans* (Bergen Festival), C. P. E. Bach's *Magnificat* with Ottavio Dantone, *Christmas Oratorio* with Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin, Weill's *Berliner Requiem* at the Lucerne Festival, Krenek's *Reisebuch* with Radio Svizzera Italiana and Graziella Contratto, Mahler Songs with the Ensemble Symphonique de Neuchâtel, Handel's *Messiah* with Masaaki Suzuki, Telemann Cantatas with Andrew Parrott, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* (Vancouver Festival) and Fauré's *Requiem* with the Gulbenkian Orchestra.

As a recitalist, Christian has been hailed as one of the foremost Lieder singers of his generation, applauded for his particular interest in 20<sup>th</sup> century 'Emigré Composers' such as Zemlinsky, Korngold, Eisler, Schreker and Gál. He has presented their works – as well as core Lieder repertoire by Schubert, Schumann and Wolf – in leading recital venues, such as the Wigmore Hall, the Royal Festival Hall, the Frick Collection in New York and the Salzburg Mozarteum, the latter with pianist Helmut Deutsch. Their CD *Modern Times* was recently awarded both the 'Diamant d'Opéra' and the prestigious 'Diapason Découverte'.

Alongside his concert work, Christian's operatic career has been flourishing. His most recent roles were Docteur Itard/ Vicaire in the world premiere of Fénelon's *JJR* (directed by Robert Carsen) and Dodo/Frog Footman/Mock Turtle in Unsuk Chin's *Alice in Wonderland* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève. He has also sung Seneca (*Poppea*) at the Boston Early Music Festival, Förster (*Cunning Little Vixen*) for the Wiener Kammeroper, Ubalde (*Armide*) at New Israeli Opera, Achis (*David & Jonathas*) conducted by William Christie and Pharnaces in Zemlinsky's *Der König Kandaules* at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw. Christian will return to the BEMF in 2013 to sing Consalvo in Handel's *Almira*.

His recordings include Bach *B Minor Mass*, Schubert *Sakuntala* ('Diapason d'Or'), *Continental Britons* (five stars in BBC Music) and Albeniz's *Henry Clifford*, all released to wide critical acclaim. Christian is professor of voice at the Conservatoire in Lausanne/Fribourg.

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Photo: Marco Borggreve