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PAVLO BALAKIN



Pavlo Balakin (*bass*) is one of the most outstanding opera soloists of his generation in Estonia today.

Pavlo's first music degree is from the jazz saxophone class of the Donetsk Music Academy in Ukraine (2006). Thereafter the Ukrainian born bass studied singing at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre with Prof Mati Palm. In addition, he has worked regularly with a number of great coaches, among them Richard Barker, Roberta Ferrari, Kristina Vavolo, Kristin Okerlund and Jeffrey Goldberg.

Between 2002-2008 Pavlo sang in the chorus of the Ukrainian National Opera and between 2008-2013 in the chorus of the Estonian National Opera. Besides, he sang many bass solo roles until being officially hired as a soloist by the Estonian National Opera in 2013.

In 2016, Pavlo Balakin made his debut in Italy – singing the title role of Attila in Verdi's "Attila" at Teatro

Massimo di Palermo – and continued during the summer as Dottore Grenvil in the production of "La Traviata" at Opera di Firenze. In 2017, his main roles included the title role in Verdi's "Attila" and Hermann in Wagner's "Tannhäuser" at Teatro La Fenice; Ramfis in "Aida" and Provost marshal in Hindemith's "Cardillac" at the Estonian National Opera; as well as singing in Beethoven's 9th Symphony in Estonia and Israel. In Autumn 2017 he had his debut at the Den Jyske Opera in Denmark as Dulcamara in their new production of Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* and in February 2018 debuted in the same role at the Lviv National Opera Theatre in his homeland Ukraine.

In Summer 2018 Pavlo performed at Opera på Skäret in G. Verdi opera "Don Carlo" in the roles of Grand Inquisitor and the Monk. November 2018 Pavlo will sing in A. Dvořák "Stabat Mater", with Maestro Christoph Eschenbach & Odense Symphony Orchestra in Odense Carl Nielsen Hall, Denmark. January 2019 he made his debut as Malyuta Skuratov in "The Tsar's Bride" by N.A. Rimsky-Korsakov at the Estonian National Opera.

In addition to the previously mentioned, Pavlo's repertoire includes smaller and bigger soloist roles, such as Méphistophélès (Gounod's "Faust"), Enrico ("Anna Bolena"), Daland ("The Flying Dutchman"), Ptolemy (Händel's "Julius Caesar"), Monterone ("Rigoletto"), Count Horn ("Un ballo in maschera"), Surin (Tchaikovsky's "The Queen of Spades"), Boriss and Pimen (Mussorgsky's "Boriss Godunov") and Salieri (Rimsky-Korsakov's "Mozart and Salieri", concert performance).

Pavlo Balakin is also highly valued as an oratorio and chamber music soloist, having performed bass parts in J. S. Bach's "St John Passion" and "St Matthew's Passion", Beethoven's Mass in C Major, Verdi's "Requiem", Mozart's "Requiem", Mendelssohn's "Elias", Strauss' "Deutsche Motette", Rossini's "Petite messe solennelle", Mussorgsky's "Songs and Dances of Death" and "Suite on Verses of Michelangelo Buonarotti" by Shostakovich.

Pavlo Balakin has worked with many renowned conductors, among them Daniel Oren, Riccardo Frizza, Omer Meir Wellber, Fabrizio Maria Carminati, Eri Klas, Andres Mustonen, Vello Pähn, Arvo Volmer; and with numerous highly acclaimed directors, such as Dmitry Bertman, Daniel Slater, Daniele Abbado, Calixto Bieito, Georg Rootering, Pamela Recinella, Vilppu Kiljunen, Andreis Zagars and Tobias Kratzer to name a few.

In 2013, Pavlo Balakin won the Annual Estonian Theatre Award "Crystal Shoe" for his mature interpretation of Méphistophélès in Gounod's "Faust".

EMPLOYMENT

FREELANCE SOLOIST

2017 - Present

SOLOIST

2013 - 2017 - Estonian National Opera CHORUS

2008 - 2013 - Estonian National Opera CHORUS

2002 - 2008 - National Opera of Ukraine

2013 - MMA

VOCAL PERFORMANCE

Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, Estonia

2006 - MMA

INSTRUMENTAL

PERFORMANCE - SAXOPHONE

Donetsk State Music Academy Donetsk, Ukraine

CONDUCTORS

Eschenbach, Alperten, Mustonen, Volmer, Klas, Carminati, Frizza, Oren, Balke, Ciampa, Johansson.

STAGE DIRECTORS

Slater, Bieto, Malvius, Abbado, Kratzer, Bertman, Zagars, Mikk, Kiljunen, Alexandrov, Relton, Corno.

VOCAL TEACHERS

Mati Palm, Jeffrey Goldberg (USA), Christin Okerlund (Austria), Margarita Gruzdeva (Latvia), Richard Barker (Italy), Eva Märtsom (Germany), Maris Skuja (Latvia), Ljudmila Shemchuk (Ukraine)

Repertoire

Berlioz

La Damnation de Faust - Brander

Britten - Peter Grimes - Ned Keene

Cimarosa

Il matrimonio segreto - Geronimo

Donizetti

L'elisir d'amore - Doctor Dulcamara

Anna Bolena - Henry VIII

Don Pasquale - Don Pasquale

Gounod

Faust - Mephistopheles

Roméo et Juliette - Soloist

Händel -

Giulio Cesare in Egitto - Tolomeo

Hindemith

Cardillac - Der Führer

Mozart

Le nozze di Figaro - Bartolo

Don Giovanni - Commendatore

Puccini

Manon Lescaut - An innkeeper - The naval captain

Tosca - Cesare Angelotti - Sciarrone

Turandot - Soloist

Rimsky-Korsakov

Tsarskaya Nevesta - The Tsar's stoker - Malyuta Skuratov

Snegurotchka - Bass

Rossini

La Cenerentola - Don Magnifico - Donna Magnifica

Il barbiere di Siviglia (reduction) - Don Basilio

Strauss

Arabella - Count Waldner

Verdi

Attila - Attila

La Traviata - Marchese d'Obigny - Dottore Grenvil - Commissioner - Flora's Servant

Aida - Ramfis

Rigoletto - The Count of Monterone

Don Carlo (Italian version) - The Grand Inquisitor - A Monk

Luisa Miller - Count Walter

Nabucco - Zachary

Simon Boccanegra - Jacopo Fiesco

Wagner, Richard

Tannhäuser - Hermann

Der fliegende Holländer - Daland

Lohengrin - Henry the Fowler