

Biography: Julien Van Mellaerts, baritone

Winner of the Maureen Forrester Prize and the German Lied Award at the 2018 Concours Musical International de Montréal, Winner of the 2017 Wigmore Hall / Kohn Foundation International Song Competition and the 2017 Kathleen Ferrier Awards, British/New Zealand baritone Julien Van Mellaerts studied at the University of Otago, before joining the International Opera School of the Royal College of Music. His studies have been supported by the 2016 Kiwi Music Scholarship, a 2016 Countess of Munster Award, the Hunn Trust and the ongoing support of the Dame Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation. He graduated in Summer 2017, having been a Fishmongers Company Scholar, supported by a Toeman Weinberger Award studying with Russell Smythe. On graduation, he was awarded the Tagore Gold Medal. He is also a scholar and alumnus of Samling, Verbier Festival Academy, Heidelberger Frühling Lied Academy with Thomas Hampson, and Bayreuth Festspiele Stipendium.

At the Royal College of Music, he sang Mr Gedge *Albert Herring*, Maître Pausanias *Une education manquée*, Nardo *La finta giardiniera*, Le Mari / Le Directeur *Les mamelles de Tirésias* and Gabriel von Eisenstein *Die Fledermaus*.

His engagements elsewhere have included Gustavo *Faramondo* for the London Handel Festival, Count Danilo *The Merry Widow* for Ryedale Festival Opera, Schaunard *La Bohème* for Opera Holland Park as a Christine Collins Young Artist, Dandini *La Cenerentola* for Diva Opera and Second Nazarene / Second Soldier *Salome* at the 2017 Verbier Festival.

Highlights of 2017 / 2018 included performances with Julius Drake for the BBC Lunchtime Series at the Wigmore Hall, the Enniskillen International Beckett Festival and the Juan March Foundation, Madrid, The Referee *Mozart vs Machine* for Mahogany Opera Group, Harlekin *Ariadne auf Naxos* for Longborough Festival Opera, the title role in *Eugene Onegin* for Cambridge Philharmonic Society, Mr Fezziwig in the premiere of Will Todd's *A Christmas Carol* for Opera Holland Park, Fauré *Requiem* with the English Festival Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall, Vaughan Williams *Hodie* with The London Chorus at Cadogan Hall, recitals for Leeds Lieder, Lewes Festival of Song and the London Song Festival and *Elizabeth* with the Royal Ballet and the Royal Opera at the Barbican Hall.

His current engagements for 2018/2019 include further recitals with Julius Drake at the Pierre Boulez Saal, Berlin and at Temple Song, London, Schaunard in *La bohème* for New Zealand Opera, the title role in Stanford's *The Travelling Companion* for New Sussex Opera (to be recorded by SOMM Recordings), a national tour with James Baillieu for Chamber Music New Zealand, Britten *War Requiem* in Lincoln and Salisbury Cathedrals, Mahler *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* on tour with the Israel Camerata, Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs* with Joensuu City Symphony Orchestra, Finland, recitals in Beijing, at Oxford Lieder Festival, performances at Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall, and recitals with Simon Lepper at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and the Lied Festival Victoria de los Ángeles (LIFE Victoria), Barcelona.

Looking ahead, he will make his debut at the 2020 Salzburg MozartWoche as **Figaro** *Le nozze di Figaro* with Sir Andrés Schiff, a return to the Wigmore Hall and make his debut at the Concertgebouw with a recital for the *Gustav Mahler FESTIVAL Amsterdam 2020*.