

CONCERT DIRECTORY INTERNATIONAL

Alan Fairs Bass-Baritone

Alan Fairs is an accomplished soloist for concerts of oratorio, with considerable experience and a very extensive repertoire. He has performed for well over 100 choirs, choral societies and festivals throughout the United Kingdom and overseas. A very popular guest artist, he is regularly asked to return for repeat engagements.

In recent years, Alan Fairs has also been on demand in the world of opera, where he has worked with English National Opera, regularly in principal roles with Welsh National Opera and Scottish Opera, and has made his principal debut at the Royal Opera. He has recently performed the roles of Raimondo (*Lucia di Lamermoor*), Alberich (*Rheingold*), Le Comte des Grieux (*Manon*) and Falstaff (title role) and attracted critical acclaim, particularly for the quality of his singing.

Oratorio engagements have included *Messiah* at the Royal Albert Hall, and subsequently Brahms' *Requiem* and Elgar's *Coronation Ode*, with Sir David Willcocks. He has performed with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in Gounod's *Messe Solennelle* at the Three Choirs Festival, with the City of Birmingham Choir and Symphony Orchestra in Handel's *Messiah*, and on many occasions with the English String Orchestra, in Handel's *Messiah*, Beethoven's *Choral Symphony*, and Mozart's *Requiem*. At the Istanbul International Festival, he has performed Haydn's *Creation* and Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*. He performed two concerts (*Messiah* and *Gerontius*) in the same season for the Leeds Philharmonic Society at Leeds Town Hall.

Recent engagements have included Handel's *Messiah* with Dr Donald Hunt and the English Symphony Orchestra, a performance of Dvorak's *Stabat Mater* for the Kidderminster Choral Society, and he has stepped in at hours' notice on three occasions in the last year to replace colleagues who were indisposed, to perform Verdi's *Requiem*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* and Haydn's *Creation*, leading to further engagements. He took part in Elgar's *The Kingdom* at the Elgar Centenary Concert with the English String Orchestra at Worcester Cathedral, and subsequent concerts have included Verdi's *Requiem*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Brahms' *German Requiem*. Engagements in 2014 bring performances of Brahms' *Requiem*, Duruflé's *Requiem*, Bach's B Minor Mass and Mozart's *Requiem*.

He has frequently been engaged to perform with Diva Opera (www.divaopera.com) in many roles including Falstaff, Don Pasquale, Don Alfonso (*Così*) and Osmin (*Entführung*) and returns to sing Leporello (Don Giovanni) during 2014 in many venues throughout England and France, including the Festival de la Vezere and 'Les Azuriales' opera festival on Cap Ferrat.

January 2014