

JOHN EASTERLIN

BIOGRAPHY

John Easterlin has established himself as one of international opera's most compelling artists.

Following a non-stop 14-15 season, Mr. Easterlin kicks off the summer of 2015 with a return to NYC's Town Hall for their annual *Broadway Unplugged* concert, opposite many of Broadway's biggest stars. Then he heads directly to his debut at the Phoenicia Festival of the Voice in the world premiere of Robert Manno's *Do Not Go Gentle*, as John Malcolm Brinnin, the manager of Dylan Thomas. The 15-16 season gets under way with a bang in his return to the San Francisco Opera in a role favorite: Adolfo Pirelli, in their new production of *Sweeney Todd*. He then makes his long awaited debut with the prestigious Festival Miami in his acclaimed solo concert: *What a Character: The Many Faces of John Easterlin*. Following a series of *Messiah* performances in New York City, he makes his debut with the Palm Beach Opera in their new production of *Ariadne auf Naxos* as the Tanzmeister, a role which has garnered him acclaim worldwide. Another house debut follows directly at the Nashville Opera, as Alfred in *Die Fledermaus*. Returns to the Oratorio Society of Queens and Town Hall follow in the spring to round out yet another busy season.

The summer of 2014 was a busy one for Mr. Easterlin, beginning with his debut at the 60th Anniversary of the prestigious Merida Festival in Spain, for which he portrayed Herod in their new production of *Salome* in the UNESCO recognized Royal Amphitheatre, commissioned and built during the reign of King Herod the Great. He followed this in the U.S. premiere of Kurt Weill's first opera: *Der Protagonist*, as the Major Domo, for the Fire Island Opera Festival. This served as a kick-off to a very busy 14-15 season, which began with a return to the Metropolitan Opera for *Lady MacBeth of Mtsenk*, covering the role of the Shabby Peasant. Following a series of *Messiah* and holiday concerts in New York City, he made his long awaited debut with the Houston Grand Opera in Michael Grandage's acclaimed production of *Madama Butterfly*, as Goro. Then it was back to NYC and two returns: first to Carnegie Hall with Leon Botstein and the American Symphony Orchestra in *Mona Lisa*, as Alessio Beneventi, and then to Town Hall as a guest soloist in the Tony Award winning series *Broadway by the Year*. Next up was his debut with the Hawaii Opera Theatre in Honolulu, as Adolfo Pirelli in *Sweeney Todd*. This astonishing season came to a close in his return to the San Francisco Opera as Don Curzio in *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

He kicked off the 2013-14 season with his dual debuts at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and the Next Wave Festival in the New York City Opera American premiere of Turnage's *Anna Nicole*, in which he created the role of the renowned talk show host Larry King. Following a return to Town Hall as a guest soloist for *Broadway Unplugged* opposite many of the Great White Way's most celebrated stars, he returned to the Royal Opera House Covent Garden

for his role debut as Andres in *Wozzeck*. Then, he headed directly to the Metropolitan Opera for the holiday season, as Monostatos in Julie Taymor's acclaimed production of *The Magic Flute*. Next up was his opus and role debut as Nick the Bartender in *Fanciulla del West* for his debut with the Indianapolis Opera. He rounded out the season in his anticipated debut with the Washington National Opera as Monostatos in *The Magic Flute* at the Kennedy Center.

A master puppeteer and certified magician, his 2012-13 season was highlighted by the world premiere of *The Perfect American* by Philip Glass, in which Mr. Easterlin created the role of the iconic Andy Warhol to international acclaim for both London's English National Opera and Madrid's Teatro Real. This landmark production will receive its international DVD release on the Opus Arte label in September 2013. Additionally, he returned to Madrid as Shuisky in *Boris Godunov*; appeared in the travesty role of Lenia for the North American premiere of Cavalli's *Eliogabalo*, for the Gotham Chamber Opera; and made his debut with the Orchestra of St. Luke's as The Neurologist in Nyman's *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*, directed by Tony Award winner Bill T. Jones.

This multi Grammy Award winner and two time Guinness Book of World Records recipient's 2011-12 season was highlighted by a critically hailed return to the Metropolitan Opera as the Scrivener in Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina*; the Shabby Peasant in *Lady MacBeth of Mtsensk* in Madrid; Jack O'Brien and Toby Higgins in *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* for his debut with Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre; and the Young Servant in *Elektra* for his debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra.

Additional recent debuts have included the Vienna State Opera as Herod in *Salome*; the Royal Opera House as Prince Nilsky in *The Gambler*; Squeak in *Billy Budd* and the Hunchback Brother in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* at the Opéra National de Paris; The Magician in *The Consul* with the Glimmerglass Festival; and as Monostatos in Diane Paulus' new production of *The Magic Flute* and the dual roles of the Tanzmeister and Brighella in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, both with Toronto's Canadian Opera Company.

Mr. Easterlin continues to make regular appearances with America's leading opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Seattle Opera, Dallas Opera, and the Opera Company of Philadelphia, as well as appearing with many of the world's leading festivals, including Ravinia, Tanglewood, Spoleto USA, Japan's Saito Kinen Festival, and Tel Aviv's New Israeli Opera.

Mr. Easterlin has worked with many of today's leading conductors, including Daniel Barenboim, Seiji Ozawa, Sir Andrew Davis, Antonio Pappano, James Conlon, Valery Gergiev, Dennis Russell Davies, Tobias Picker, Jeffrey Tate, Bernard Labadie, Pablo Heras-Casado and Emmanuel Villaume and stage directors Diane Paulus, Richard Jones, Phelim McDermott, Francesca Zambello, John Doyle, John Copley, Sir Peter Hall, David McVicar, Jürgen Flimm, Paul Curran, and Robert Wilson.

CD and DVD catalogues include appearances on PBS *Great Performances* and *Live from Lincoln Center* with the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, and Alice Tully Hall, as well as a telecast of the Los Angeles Opera's acclaimed production of *The Rise and Fall of the City of*

Mahagonny, for which he received 2008 Emmy and Peabody Awards, and two 2009 Grammy Awards for Opera Recording of the Year and Classical Album of the Year.

The DVD of the globally acclaimed Teatro Real production of *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, with Mr. Easterlin, was released in November 2011 on the BelAir Classiques label and has become a triple award recipient of the prestigious Diapason D'Or Award, the Diapason D'Or del Année Award, and the Vidéo Classica 4 Award.