



VIRGILE FRANNAIS – baritone

French baritone, Virgile Frannais, began his studies in Orléans with Martine Midoux and Marie-Thérèse Foix. He then studied in Paris, finally completing his studies at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse in 2001.

When he was 25, he joined the *Jeunes Voix du Rhin* in Colmar. At the Opéra de Strasbourg, he worked with prestigious conductors and directors, including Emmanuel Haim, Rinaldo Alessandrini, Achim Freyer and David McVicar.

From 2005-7, he joined CNIPAL in Marseille, where he worked with Mady Mesplé, Yvonne Minton and Tom Krause. In the two seasons he was there, he sang both **Jupiter** *Orphée aux Enfers* and **Mercutio** *Roméo et Juliette* for the Opéra de Marseille, conducted by Dominique Trottein and directed by Yves Coudray.

Other roles include **Gustave de Pottenstein** *The Land of Smiles*, **Benoit/Alcindoro** *La Bohème* for Opéra d'Avignon, and **Marullo** *Rigoletto* and **Yamadori** *Madama Butterfly* for Opéra de Massy. Also, **Toinet** *Un de la Canebière* for both Opéra de Toulon and Opéra d'Avignon, **Claude Aviland** in Hahn's *Ô mon bel inconnu* for Opéra de Renne and Opéra de Metz, and **Le Médecin** in Isabelle Aboulker's new opera *Jeremy Fisher* for Opéra de Lyon. He has also sung **Ajax II** *La Belle Hélène* and **Guglielmo** *Così fan tutte* for Saint-Etienne.

Other performances include **Raoul de Gardefeux** *La Vie Parisienne* for Toulon, **Assan** *The Consul* for the Théâtre d'Herblay and the Théâtre de L'Athénée in Paris. Also, **Dancaire** *Carmen* for La Fabrique Opéra Val de Loire à Orléans and **Marco** *Gianni Schicchi* with La Coopérative.

Virgile also gave a long run of performances as **Papageno** in Peter Brook's production of *Die Zauberflöte* for the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord, during which time the show was awarded the 2011 Molière for best opera. He sang around 300 performances across France, as well as in London, Madrid, Milan, Rome, Budapest, St Petersburg, New York, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Mexico, Casablanca, Perth, Hong Kong, Taipei, Seoul and Tokyo.

He is equally at home in recital and has performed at the l'Opéra-Comique in Paris, in a programme of 18th century French airs, accompanied by Mara Dobresco, and at the Opéra de Bordeaux, singing arias by Rossini, Donizetti, R. Strauss, Lehar and Millöcker.