



Gerald Finley Bass- Baritone



Grammy Award-winning Canadian bass-baritone Gerald Finley is one of the most revered and influential artists of our time, with celebrated performances at the world's major opera and concert venues and recordings on CD and DVD with major labels in a wide variety of repertoire. His extensive career is devoted to the complete spectrum of vocal art, encompassing operatic, orchestral and song repertoire, collaborating with the greatest composers, orchestras and conductors.

His career initially focussed on the music of Mozart; his *Don Giovanni* and Count *Le nozze di Figaro* have been heard live and broadcast throughout the world. His ever expanding repertoire soon encompassed major Wagner and Verdi repertoire as well roles including Bluebeard, Guillaume Tell, J. Robert Oppenheimer in John Adams' *Dr. Atomic*, and Jaufré Rudel in Saariaho's *L'amour de loin*. He created Harry Heegan in Mark Anthony Turnage's *The Silver Tassie*.

Finley's 2024/25 season begins with a concert performance of Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer* at Norwegian National Opera under the baton of Edward Gardner, which is set for a release on Decca Classics; the opening of the Staatsoper Berlin as Scarpia *Tosca*; and a highly anticipated role debut in the title role of Verdi's *Macbeth* at the Wiener Staatsoper, which he reprises at Bayerische Staatsoper. Further highlights include the New York premiere of Adams' *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Metropolitan Opera; *Der fliegende Holländer* at Bayerische Staatsoper and the world premiere of Mark Anthony Turnage's new opera *Festen* at the Royal Ballet & Opera. On the concert platform, Finley performs Brahms' *Requiem* with the Rundfunk Sinfonieorchester Berlin; *Dichterliebe* with Julius Drake at Gran Teatre del Liceu and embarks on recital tour with acclaimed pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason.

Last season he sang Hans Sachs in Laurent Pelly's new production of *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* in Madrid; Adams' *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Liceu in Barcelona for its European premiere; Amfortas at the Bayerische Staatsoper; and Don Alfonso at the Royal Ballet & Opera. In concert, he performed Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem* with the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia; Mendelssohn *Elijah* with London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Antonio Pappano and Bluebeard *Bluebeard's Castle* at the Elbphilharmonie Hamburg, the Oslo Philharmonic and San Francisco Symphony; as well as a recital tour with Julius Drake in London, Strasbourg, Vienna, Madrid, Luxembourg and Valencia.

Other recent engagements saw Finley as Antony in the world premiere of John Adams' *Antony and Cleopatra* at San Francisco Opera; Scarpia *Tosca* and Count in Netia Jones' new production of *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Opéra national de Paris; his debut as the title role in *Der fliegende Holländer* at Staatsoper Berlin; Wolfram *Tannhäuser* in critically acclaimed performances at the Royal Ballet & Opera; Iago in a new production of *Otello* at the Bayerische Staatsoper and the Canadian Opera Company; the title role in *Bluebeard's Castle* and Count Almaviva *Le nozze di Figaro* at the Metropolitan Opera; Count Almaviva at Bayerische Staatsoper; the title role in *Falstaff* at the Vienna State Opera and in a new production at the Salzburg Festival; Beethoven Symphony No.9 conducted by Bernard Haitink in Munich and at the Salzburg Festival with Riccardo Muti; the opening gala concert at the Paris Opera with Gustavo Dudamel; *Bluebeard's Castle* in a highly acclaimed production at Stone Nest in London and in Toronto with Against the Grain Theatre; and with l'Orchestre de Paris, the Vienna Symphony and Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra.

Further critical successes have been Hans Sachs at the Glyndebourne Festival and l'Opéra de Paris; Amfortas *Parsifal* at Royal Ballet & Opera, in Baden-Baden with the Berliner Philharmoniker and Sir Simon Rattle and the Bavarian State Opera; Wolfram at the Lyric Opera of Chicago; Verdi's *Falstaff* at the Canadian Opera (for which he won a DORA Award)

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and the Salzburg Festival; as a “peerless” Iago *Otello* with Sir Colin Davis and the LSO (LSO Live) Royal Ballet & Opera in Japan, and Bavarian State Opera, and Canadian opera; and in the title role in Rossini’s *Guillaume Tell* with Accademia di Santa Cecilia and Sir Antonio Pappano (EMI) and at the Royal Ballet & Opera Covent Garden. His other important roles include Scarpia, Golaud, *Eugene Onegin* and Nick Shadow. In contemporary opera, Finley has excelled in creating leading roles, most notably J. Robert Oppenheimer in John Adams’ *Doctor Atomic* (New York Met, ENO London, San Francisco, Chicago and Amsterdam); Harry Heegan in Turnage’s *The Silver Tassie* at ENO; Howard K. Stern in *Turnage’s Anna Nicole* at Covent Garden; Jaufré Rudel in Kaija Saariaho’s *L’amour de loin*; and Mr Fox in Tobias Picker’s *Fantastic Mr Fox* at L.A. Opera. In 2012, the DVD release of *Doctor Atomic* in which Gerald Finley appeared as J. Robert Oppenheimer was awarded the Grammy for ‘Best Opera Recording’.

Finley’s concert work is a vital part of his flourishing career with recent appearances with the London Symphony Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic the London Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Mahler Chamber, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. He was the star of the 2018 Last Night of the Proms and a rediscovered version of Shostakovich’s “English Poets” along with that composer’s orchestral cycle, *Michelangelo Sonnets*, was recorded by Finley and the Helsinki Philharmonic on the Ondine label and received international critical acclaim. Modern day composers have written extensively for him and include Peter Lieberson (*Songs of Love and Sorrow* with the Boston Symphony and recorded by Ondine with the Helsinki Radio Orchestra), Mark Anthony Turnage (*When I woke* with the LPO and Vladimir Jurowski), Huw Watkins, Julian Philips, Kaija Saariaho (*True Fire* with the L.A. Philharmonic and Gustavo Dudamel), and Einojuhani Rautavaara (*Rubáiyát* with the Helsinki Philharmonic).

As a celebrated song recitalist, he works regularly with pianist Julius Drake. Their many appearances throughout the world include the Schubertiade, a residency at the Wigmore Hall, New York’s Carnegie-Zankel Hall and lauded appearances at the festivals of Salzburg, Edinburgh, and Tanglewood. He has also performed with Sir Antonio Pappano, Malcolm Martineau, Simon Lepper and Michael McMahon.

Finley’s many solo recital CD releases have been devoted to complete songs of Barber, Britten, Duparc, Ives, Liszt, Ravel and Schumann song cycles *Dichterliebe* and *Liederkreis* Op. 24 & 39. With a continuing partnership with Julius Drake on the Hyperion label, all have been critically acclaimed, including an unprecedented three Gramophone Awards in the Solo Vocal category. Their release of Schubert *Winterreise* won a Canadian Juno Award in 2015 and last season saw the completion of their Hyperion Schubert trilogy with the release of *Die schöne Müllerin*. Most recently the London Symphony Orchestra released a recording of Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* with Finley in the title role.

As part of his dedication to preserving and enhancing the singing tradition, he gives masterclasses throughout the world most recently at the Juilliard School of Music, and continues to work with the Jette Parker Young Artists’ Program at the Royal Ballet & Opera, Covent Garden, the National Opera Studio, and the Lindemann Program at the Met.

Finley was born in Montreal, began singing as a chorister in Ottawa, Canada, and completed his musical studies in the UK at the Royal College of Music, King’s College, Cambridge, and the National Opera Studio. He is a Fellow and Visiting Professor at the Royal College of Music. In 2014 he climbed Kilimanjaro for the charity Help Musicians UK. In 2017 he was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire and had previously been appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. Mr Finley also features on a Canadian stamp celebrating Canadians in opera.

Gerald Finley is represented by MWA Management worldwide.
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