



CAROLINE PHILLIPS MANAGEMENT

Biography

*STEPHEN VARCOE*

*Baritone*

Stephen Varcoe has established a reputation as one of Britain's most versatile baritones across the fields of concert, recital and opera covering a wide range of repertoire in Europe, the USA and the Far East.

He has made over 125 recordings including Purcell, Handel and Bach with Pinnock, Gardiner, Hickox and Kuijken, Mozart with Marriner, Fauré with Rutter, Holst with Hickox, Richard Strauss with Norrington and French songs with Graham Johnson, with whom he also contributed Volume 2 in the award-winning Hyperion Complete Schubert Edition. English Song is a particular area of the repertoire in which Stephen Varcoe excels. He has recorded recitals of Finzi, Parry and Stanford with Clifford Benson; Armstrong Gibbs with Roger Vignoles, a recording of English orchestral songs *If There Were Dreams To Sell* as well as Grainger's orchestral songs with Hickox and the City of London Sinfonia for Chandos. The 20<sup>th</sup> century is further represented by Schoenberg's *Serenade Opus 24* with The 20th Century Classics Ensemble/Robert Craft and Stravinsky's *Abraham And Isaac* with The Orchestra of St. Luke's /Craft. His other releases include discs of Chabrier, Beethoven and Hummel.

In recital, Stephen Varcoe has also enjoyed collaborations with Iain Burnside, Eugene Asti, Peter Seymour and Penelope Thwaites and presented many song programmes at festivals, The Wigmore Hall and on BBC Radio 3.

He has appeared with all the major symphony and chamber orchestras in the UK as well as many important ensembles worldwide. Alongside engagements such as Bach's *St John Passion* with The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment/Leonhardt, Goehr's *Sonata about Jerusalem* with the Schoenberg Ensemble/Knussen, Webern *Cantata II* with The BBC Symphony Orchestra/Simon Joly, and Schubert's *Mass In E Flat* with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra/Norrington have been appearances with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, the St Paul Chamber Orchestra, Les Violons du Roy, the Tampere Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and the Gulbenkian Foundation Orchestra. In addition to his partnerships on disc, Stephen Varcoe has been privileged to work with conductors such as Brüggén, Mackerras, Malgoire, Minkowski, Östman, Zehetmair, Rifkin, Roszdevenky and Tortelier. Festival appearances have taken him to the Lucerne International Easter Music Festival, Festival Cervantino, Ambronay and, on numerous occasions, The BBC Proms.

His operatic engagements include Haydn's *L'Infedelta Delusa* in Antwerp, Debussy's *Fall Of The House Of Usher* in Lisbon and London, John Tavener's *Mary Of Egypt* for the Aldeburgh Festival and Plutone in Peri's *Euridice* for the Drottningholm Festival, Sweden and in Japan. His repertoire also includes Death in Holst's *Savitri*, Demetrius in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Salieri in Rimsky Korsakov's *Mozart & Salieri*. He took part in Jonathan Miller's acclaimed staging of *The St Matthew Passion* with performances in France, Spain and New York and BBC Television.

As well as his singing engagements, Stephen Varcoe is in great demand for Master classes and as a juror at singing competitions. Stephen's dissertation *The thought behind the utterance* gained him a PhD from the University of York and he is the author of *Sing English Song*.

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