



Giles TOMKINS

Bass-Baritone

BIOGRAPHY

"Bass-baritone Giles Tomkins in the minor role of Brander was impressive"

*Damnation of Faust, Vancouver Bach Choir
Lloyd Dykk, The Georgia Straight*

As Pedro in James Rolfe's "Ines" with Queen of Puddings –

"The strongest performer is bass-baritone Giles Tomkins, who has a solid, rich voice and clear diction."

Michael Johnson, The Classical Music Network

Bass-baritone Giles Tomkins is in demand as one of Canada's leading young singers, widely recognized for his vocal virtuosity and lyricism in an impressive range of repertoire. His voice has been described as "sweet but manly" complete with "lovely phrasing and beautiful placement" by Paula Citron, Opera Canada. This 2005 Distinguished Graduate from the University of Toronto's Opera Division is a frequent guest artist with the Aldeburgh Connection, and has appeared with Tapestry New Opera Works, St. Lawrence String Quartet, Canadian Brass, Opera in Concert and the Canadian Opera Company. Mr. Tomkins' performances in the United Kingdom include *King Arthur* (Purcell) at the Aldeburgh Festival, **Colline** in a touring production of Puccini's *La Boheme* with Scottish Opera, and in 2006, the European premiere of Queen of Puddings Music Theatre's production of *The Midnight Court* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Recent operatic roles for Giles include **Don Alfonso** in *Così fan Tutte* at Tanglewood (conducted by James Levine), **Don Basilio** in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (Scottish Opera) directed by Sir Thomas Allen and **Superintendent Budd** in Britten's *Albert Herring* (Aldeburgh Festival). In 2008, Giles returned to Scottish Opera as **Pistola** in Verdi's *Falstaff* and made his debut in the title role in Ottawa's Opera Lyra production of *Le Nozze di Figaro*. Giles starred as **Pedro** in James Rolfe's new opera *Ines* with Queen of Puddings Music Theatre and joined the cast of *La Boheme* as **Colline** with Saskatoon Opera.

Giles has appeared on five international Naxos recordings with the Aradia Ensemble, (Kevin Mallon, conductor) singing major roles in Rameau's *Castor et Pollux*, Handel's *Rinaldo*, and Vivaldi's *Griselda*, and in 2009 sang **Christus** in Toronto Bach Consort's performance of *St. John Passion* with Yannick Nezet-Seguin, conductor. Further concert appearances include Beethoven's *Mass in C* with Guelph Chamber Choir, Mozart's *Mass in C* with Fanshawe Chorus London, and *Messiah* with Classical Music Consort and Peterborough Singers. Mr. Tomkins joined the cast for Dean Burry's rollicking "*A Mummer's Masque*" with Toronto Masque Theatre, and sang the role of **Dr. Grenvil** in Pacific Opera Victoria's production of *La Traviata*.

Giles begins the 2010/11 season at the Cervantino Festival in Mexico, in a Soundstreams Canada concert featuring renowned Mexican percussion ensemble Tambuco, in premieres by Alvarez and Sokolovic, followed by *Messiah* with Elmer Iseler Singers and Hamilton's Bach Elgar Choir. Mr. Tomkins returns to Pacific Opera Victoria, as **Colline** in *La Boheme*, and debuts with Vancouver Bach Choir in Berlioz' *Damnation of Faust*. Singing **Dr. Grenvil** with Vancouver Opera's *La Traviata* completes Giles Tomkins' busy season.

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