

# ALAIN COULOMBE

## BASS

One of the most commanding and exciting singers of his generation, known for his musical and dramatic versatility, French-Canadian bass Alain Coulombe is a favourite of international critics and audiences alike. In a career spanning over 25 years, he has collaborated with outstanding conductors such as Seiji Ozawa, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Helmut Rilling, Richard Bradshaw, Kent Nagano, Bernard Labadie, Mark Albrecht, Edoardo Muller, Alain Altinoglu, Ingo Metzmacher and Richard Bonyngé.

Next season, Alain Coulombe looks forward to returning to the Canadian Opera Company as *Dikoy* in Janáček's KATYA KABANOVA and as *Zuniga* in CARMEN. On the concert stage, he will make his Toronto Symphony Orchestra Debut as *Sparafucile* in RIGOLETTO and will be the *bass soloist* in Dvořák's STABAT MATER with Le Choeur Classique de Montréal.

His recent performances include *Oroveso* in NORMA with the Calgary Opera, *Timur* in TURANDOT with the Vancouver Opera, *Frère Laurent* in Gounod's ROMÉO ET JULIETTE with l'Opéra de Montréal and the Calgary Opera, *Il Gran Sacerdote di Belo* in NABUCCO with l'Opéra de Québec, as well as *Merlin* in Claude Vivier's KOPERNIKUS with Against the Grain Theatre, for which the entire cast is the recipient of a 2019 Dora Award for Outstanding Performance of an Ensemble in Opera. On the concert stage, he was the *bass soloist* in Mozart's REQUIEM at the Music And Beyond Festival and in Verdi's REQUIEM with l'Orchestre symphonique de Trois-Rivières and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

During season 2016/17, he made his debut at the Salzburg Festival as *Il Commendatore* in DON GIOVANNI and returned to the Dutch National Opera as *Geronte di Ravoir* in MANON LESCAUT, performances which were followed by *Il Commendatore* in DON GIOVANNI with l'Opéra de Montréal. He concluded the season singing the role of *Bishop Alexandre-Antonin Taché* in Harry Somers' opera LOUIS RIEL at the Canadian Opera Company, the National Arts Centre and the Festival d'Opéra de Québec.

During season 2015/16, he made his debut at Il Teatro alla Scala, where he created the roles of *Archangel Uriel* and *Third Man* in the World Premiere of Giorgio Battistelli's CO2. He then returned to La Scala to sing *Der Doktor* in WOZZECK and completed the season by performing *Zuniga* in CARMEN at the Canadian Opera Company, *Sarastro* in THE MAGIC FLUTE with the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra and *Le Père de Famille* in Berlioz's L'ENFANCE DU CHRIST with Pax Christi Chorale.

Highlights of his 2014/15 season include the roles of *The French General* in the Canadian premiere of Kevin Puts' SILENT NIGHT with the Calgary Opera, *An Old Hebrew* in SAMSON ET DALILA with l'Opéra de Montréal, as well as *Zuniga* in CARMEN with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and *The Gravedigger* in Schumann's DER ROSE PILGERFAHRT Op.112 with Le Festival de Musique de Lanaudière.

Season 2013/14 included a comeback to the Dutch National Opera as *the Director of the Casino* in Prokofiev's THE GAMBLER; he also sang *Thésée* in Rameau's HIPPOLYTE ET ARICIE with VOICEBOX : Opera in Concert and the Aradia Ensemble, *Banquo* in Verdi's MACBETH with l'Opéra de Québec and *Arkel* in Debussy's PELLÉAS ET MÉLISANDE with Against the Grain Theatre.

Season 2012/13 included the roles of *Zuniga* in Bizet's CARMEN with Opera Lyra Ottawa, *Banco* in Verdi's MACBETH with the Pacific Opera Victoria, *Palémon* in Massenet's THAÏS with VOICEBOX : Opera In Concert, *George Benton* in Jake Heggie's DEAD MAN WALKING and *le Comte des Grioux* in Massenet's MANON with l'Opéra de Montréal.

During the 2011/12 season, Alain took part in two World Premieres: he was First World War hero *Lieutenant Gordon Muriel Flowerdew*, in the opera MARY'S WEDDING by Andrew MacDonald and

Stephen Massicotte (Pacific Opera Victoria) and he made his European opera debut personifying the legendary *Clark Gable*, in Robin de Raaff's WAITING FOR MISS MONROE for the Dutch National Opera. Mr.Coulombe was also *Count Ceprano* and the cover for the role of *Sparafucile* in RIGOLETTO (Canadian Opera Company), as well as *Don Fernando* in FIDELIO (Edmonton Opera). On the concert stage, he was *Marcel* in the Canadian Premiere of LES HUGUENOTS (Toronto Opera In Concert), and was *guest soloist* at l'Opéra de Montréal's OPERA GALA, in Mozart's REQUIEM with l'Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, and with the National Orchestra of Spain in L'ENFANCE DU CHRIST by Berlioz.

Alain's 2010/11 opera calendar included two productions of AIDA; he was *the King of Egypt* (Canadian Opera Company) as well as *Ramfis* (Calgary Opera Association). He was also *Sparafucile* in RIGOLETTO (Michigan Opera Theatre), *Le Bailli* in WERTHER (Opéra de Montréal), as well as *bass soloist* in Verdi's REQUIEM (Vancouver Symphony).

During the 2009/10 season, he was *Oroveso* in NORMA (Vancouver Opera), *Le Comte des Grioux* in MANON (Ottawa Opera Lyra), *Il Commendatore* in DON GIOVANNI (Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal), *Zuniga* in CARMEN (Canadian Opera Company, Manitoba Opera, Vancouver Opera), as well as *Montano* in OTELLO (Canadian Opera Company). On the concert stage, he performed at the Vancouver Opera's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, as *bass soloist* in Beethoven's NINTH SYMPHONY (Orchestre Symphonique de l'Estuaire), as well as in Mozart's REQUIEM (Pasadena Symphony).

He marked more acclaimed performances in the roles of *Sarastro* in THE MAGIC FLUTE, *Count Ilya Rostov* in WAR AND PEACE and *The Priest* in LADY MACBETH OF MTSENSK (Canadian Opera Company), *Raimondo* in LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR (Cincinnati Opera, Opéra de Montréal), *Collatinus* in THE RAPE OF LUCRETIA (Opéra de Montréal, Pacific Opera Victoria) and *Sparafucile* in RIGOLETTO (Pacific Opera Victoria). He was also *Oroveso* in NORMA (Pacific Opera Victoria), *Seneca* in L'INCORONAZIONE DI POPPEA (Cleveland Opera, Toronto Opera Atelier, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra), *Lignière* in the World Premiere of David DiChiera's CYRANO (Michigan Opera Theatre), *Colline* in LA BOHÈME (Edmonton Opera, Opéra de Québec), *Créon* in Charpentier's MÉDÉE and *Hidraot* in Lully's ARMIDE (Toronto Opera Atelier, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra).

On the concert stage, Mr.Coulombe was *Tiresias* in OEDIPUS REX (Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal), *Pater profundus* in Mahler's EIGHTH SYMPHONY (Brott Music Festival), *Nourabad* in LES PÊCHEURS DE PERLES and *Arkel* in PELLÉAS ET MÉLISANDE (MusicFest Vancouver, Vancouver Opera), as well as *Le Roi de Trèfles* in L'AMOUR DES TROIS ORANGES (Toronto Opera In Concert). He was also *bass soloist* in Christos Hatzis' KYRIE (CBC radio), Schubert's A FLAT MASS (CBC radio, CBC orchestra, MusicFest Vancouver), Vivaldi's DIXIT DOMINUS (National Ballet of Canada) and in Mozart's REQUIEM (Elora Festival, Orchestra London, Symphony Orchestras of Windsor, Thunder Bay, Victoria and Edmonton).

Having sung *Phinée* in the live DVD production of Lully's PERSÉE under EuroArts (Toronto Opera Atelier, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra) and performed in Berlioz's L'ENFANCE DU CHRIST (Boston Symphony, Dresdner Philharmonie), Alain appeared as *Leporello* alongside Dmitri Hvorostovsky's *Don Giovanni* in concert (George Weston Recital Hall), and was featured as *Masetto* in the Gemini winning Rhombus Media film DON GIOVANNI UNMASKED, again starring Hvorostovsky.

His recording credits include Robin de Raaff's WAITING FOR MISS MONROE (Challenge Records International), Ravel's L'ENFANT ET LES SORTILÈGES (Prague Symphony Orchestra, Théâtre Sans Fil), Harry Somers' SERINETTE, CHURA CHURAM and THE DEATH OF ENKIDU (Centrediscs Records), the World Premiere of David DiChiera's CYRANO (Michigan Opera Theatre), the soundtrack of Rhombus Media's movie DON GIOVANNI UNMASKED (CBC Records), as well as numerous live radio broadcasts of opera performances and concerts across North America and Europe.

(FEBRUARY 2020)