

## Artists' Bios

### Jeremy Huw Williams

The Welsh baritone **Jeremy Huw Williams** studied at St John's College, Cambridge, at the National Opera Studio, and with April Cantelo. He made his debut with Welsh National Opera as Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*) and has since appeared in more than sixty operatic roles. He has given performances at major venues in North and South America, Australia, China, India and most European countries.

In France he has sung the roles of Olivier (*Capriccio*), Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*), George (*Of Mice and Men*), Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*), Shchekalov (*Boris Godunov*), Baritone (*Hydrogen Jukebox*) and title role *Till Eulenspiegel* by Karetnikov for L'Opéra de Nantes, and Sebastian (*The Tempest*) for L'Opera du Rhin. In Italy he has sung the role of Nixon (*Nixon in China*) at the opera house in Verona and Ferryman (*Curlew River*) at the opera houses of Pisa and Trento. In Greece he has sung the role of Chou En-lai (*Nixon in China*) for Greek National Opera. In Belgium he has sung the role of Marcello (*La Bohème*) for Zomeropera. In Norway he has sung the role of Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*) for Vest Norges Opera and Serezha (*The Electrification of the Soviet Union*) for Opera Vest. In Austria he has sung the role of Dr Pangloss (*Candide*) in Vienna, a role that he repeated in Bremen, Munich and London. In the USA he has sung the role of Lukash (*The Good Soldier Schweik*) for Long Beach Opera.

In Wales he has sung the roles of Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*), Escamillo (*Carmen*), Germont (*La Traviata*), Marcello (*La Bohème*) and Le Dancaire (*Carmen*) for Welsh National Opera and the roles of Serezha (*The Electrification of the Soviet Union*), Tarquinius (*The Rape of Lucretia*), Choregos (*Punch and Judy*), Mangus (*The Knot Garden*) and Dr Simon Browne (*For You*) for Music Theatre Wales. In Ireland he has sung the role of Teddy (*The Silver Tassie*) for Opera Ireland. In Scotland he has sung the roles of Andrew (*74 Degrees North*), Father (*Zen Story*), Epstein (*The Letter*) and Kommerzienrat (*Intermezzo*) for Scottish Opera.

He has given recitals at the Wigmore Hall and Purcell Room, and at many major music festivals. He has appeared with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in Tippett's *King Priam* at the Royal Festival Hall, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in Lambert's *Summer's Last Will and Testament* at Symphony Hall, the Hallé in Handel's *Messiah* at the Bridgewater Hall, the Philharmonia in Mozart's *Requiem* at St David's Hall, the BBC Symphony Orchestra in Nielsen's *Third Symphony* at the Royal Albert Hall during the BBC Proms, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in Rawsthorne's *Medieval Diptych*, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra in Adams's *The Wound Dresser* at City Halls, the BBC Philharmonic in Schubert's *Mass in Ab*, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, the London Philharmonic Orchestra in Watson's *O! Captain*, the Ulster Orchestra in McDowall's *Theatre of Tango*, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in Mathias's *This Worlde's Joie* at the Three Choirs Festival, and the BBC Concert Orchestra in Stainer's *Crucifixion* at Southwark Cathedral for BBC Radio 2.

He has also appeared with the RTE Concert Orchestra in Dvořák's *Requiem* at the National Concert Hall in Dublin, the Orchestre National de Lyon in Benjamin's *Sometime Voices* at the Auditorium de Lyon, l'Orchestre Léonard de Vinci in Brahms's *Requiem* at the opera house in Rouen, the Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya in Orff's *Carmina Burana* at the Auditori in Barcelona, and the Sønderyllands Symfoniorkester in Bach's Christmas Oratorio.

He is renowned as a fine exponent of contemporary music, having commissioned much new music and given premieres of works by Alun Hoddinott, William Mathias, John Tavener, Michael Berkeley, Paul Mealor, Julian Phillips, Richard Causton, Mark Bowden, and Huw Watkins. He frequently records for BBC Radio 3 (in recital, and with the BBC NOW, CBSO, BBC SO, BBC SSO, BBC Philharmonic and BBC CO), and has made many commercial recordings, including more than ten solo discs of songs.

As a principal singer with Welsh National Opera he appeared at the opening night of the Wales Millennium

Centre, and received the inaugural Sir Geraint Evans Award from the Welsh Music Guild, given annually to a person or persons who have made a significant contribution to Welsh music in any one year or recent years: 'there has been an unanimous decision that the first award should be made to baritone Jeremy Huw Williams in recognition of not only his performing ability but also for the tremendous support that he has given to Welsh composers and their music in recent years'.

He was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by Glyndwr University in 2009 for services to music in Wales, and received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music from the University of Aberdeen in 2011.

[www.jeremyhuwilliams.com](http://www.jeremyhuwilliams.com)

## **Paula Fan**

Pianist **Paula Fan** has performed on five continents, recorded more than twenty five commercial albums, and has broadcast for the BBC, NPR, Radio Television China, and international stations from Bosnia to Australia. As one of the first recipients of the doctorate in Collaborative Piano, she has lectured on the subject worldwide. She performed and taught at the University of Arizona Fred Fox School of Music as its only Regents' Professor, and was Principal Keyboardist and soloist with the Tucson Symphony for many seasons. She has also served as Visiting Professor at the Eastman School of Music, and at numerous conservatories in the People's Republic of China, where she was the first ever accompanist-coach invited by the Chinese Ministry of Culture. As both performer and teacher, one of her greatest interests has been building bridges between classical music and audiences of all ages and backgrounds, as well as between disciplines.

The daughter of highly indulgent non-traditional Chinese parents, Paula Fan started her career in higher education by writing a show, "Opera is..." which introduced countless Arizona children to opera, using paper hats, hammy melodrama, and original English lyrics to traditional arias. Throughout her academic career, she has explored the world of classical music in different ways with her series of "Time Traveler's Concerts" in which musicians from history speak as well as perform, "Accompanist's Lib" concerts highlighting the role of the under-appreciated collaborative pianist, and in performances co-produced with other academic entities, most notably the Arizona Research Institute for Solar Energy, AzRISE. She was a founder of the Solar Storytellers--a piano trio playing electric instruments powered by a golf cart with a solar panel for a roof--and with her brother Michael, produced the Dr. Solara Trilogy of children's solar energy shows performed on the National Mall in Washington DC, at the Aspen Science Center, and in Tucson.

Dr. Fan was part of the team that founded the University of Arizona's Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry, which not only brings together traditionally complementary disciplines within the Humanities and Fine Arts, but also, recognizing that creativity exists within a context, is unique in its inclusion of the Social and Behavioral Sciences. With Confluentcenter's encouragement, her Creative Collaborations series married disciplines from Hospice Care to Cookery with art song, based on her belief that there is classical music for everything. She is now Confluentcenter's first Senior Fellow. She is an alumna of the University of Arizona, where she studied with the virtuoso pianist Ozan Marsh, and of the University of Southern California, where she was mentored by the legendary teachers of Collaborative Piano, Gwendolyn Koldofsky and Brooks Smith.