



ASITHA TENNEKOON

TENOR

BIOGRAPHY

2016 IRCPA'S "SONDRA RADVANOVSKY ENCOUNTER" – ERMANNO MAURO SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

As Gernando in *L'isola disabitata* with Voicebox: Opera in Concert –

“Possessed of luxurious lyricism and gentle Italianate tone, tenor Asitha Tennekoon contributed a gloriously sung principal turn as Gernando. No stranger to Toronto indie opera stages, this is clearly an artist on the fast track to stardom, a singer gifted with a brilliant, incandescent instrument and appealing stage manners. His was an abundantly plausible hero more fretful than swashbuckling, as anxious a romantic navigator as ever sailed the Seven Seas.”

Ian Ritchie, Opera Going Toronto

Since moving to Toronto in the fall of 2014 Sri Lankan tenor Asitha Tennekoon has quickly established himself as a versatile singer and actor. His recent breakout performance in Tapestry Opera's *'Rocking Horse Winner'* garnered much critical acclaim. Robert Harris of *The Globe and Mail* wrote "The surprise of the night was Asitha Tennekoon... his silky, emotional presence on stage – both vocally and dramatically – gave the show a powerful focus." Gregory Finney of *Schmopera* wrote "Tennekoon is a revelation. His beautiful leggiero tenor was perfect... [his acting] was endearing, truthful, and raw. Coupled with his flawless singing, you couldn't have asked for any more - on any stage - anywhere." His other operatic credits in Canada include performances with Stratford Summer Music Festival, The Indian River Festival, MY Opera, and Bicycle Opera Project.

This season, Asitha debuts with Voicebox:Opera in Concert as **Gernando** in Haydn's *L'isola disabitata* with Aradia Ensemble, followed by **Marchese** in Glenn Gould School's production of Puccini's *La Cecchina*, and sings the role of **Harry Ben** in Ethel Smyth's *The Boatswain's Mate* with Opera 5.

As a concert soloist he has been praised as a "bright, nicely resonant tenor... with expression and sensitive phrasing" (Joseph So, *Musical Toronto*). In May 2017 he will be the tenor soloist in Mozart's *Great Mass in C Minor* with the Tafelmusik Chamber Orchestra and Choir. His concert credits include performances with The Theatre of Early Music, Toronto Classical Singers, London Pro Musica, and Village Voices. Frequently performed repertoire includes J.S. Bach's *Johannes-Passion* (**Evangelist** and arias), the Monteverdi *Vespers*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Mozart's *Requiem*.

During his formative years in the USA Tennekoon was a featured soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir, the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Choir, the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, and the Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra.

Tennekoon studied Vocal Performance at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University. In Toronto he completed the Artist Diploma Program at the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music. He also holds Licentiate Diplomas in Voice and Piano from the Trinity College of Music, London, and the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London.

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MANAGEMENT

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