



# ASITHA TENNEKOON

## TENOR

### REVIEWS

#### **As Harry Benn in Ethel Smyth's *The Boatswain's Mate* –**

“Tenor Asitha Tennekoon sings the role of **Harry Benn**... with his characteristic crystalline tenor. I could listen to him for days. Hot on the heels of his Dora Award nomination for last year's *Rocking Horse Winner*, Tennekoon is blossoming lately and each facet of his performance keeps getting better and better. We're all lucky to be here at this time of his career.”

**Greg Finney, Schmopera**

“Asitha Tennekoon plays washed up seafarer, Harry Benn, a scandalous rogue somehow rendered enormously likeable in this skilled singer actor's hands... Tenor ringing, Tennekoon launches into Harry's rolling aria, When rocked on the billows, that roughest of pillows, splashing the catchy tune over an altogether captivated audience with salty abandon.”

**Ian Ritchie, Opera Going Toronto**

“Asitha Tennekoon as the hapless boatswain once again turned in a fine dramatic and musical performance. His clear bright tenor has become something of a fixture in the Toronto indie scene and it's easy to see why.”

**John Gilks, Opera Ramblings**

“If I had to pick a dramatic standout among the principals, it would be tenor Asitha Tennekoon who has a gift for physical comedy rarely found among opera singers. His smooth tenor all the while never wavered.”

**Definitely the Opera**

#### **As Paul in *Rocking Horse Winner* with Tapestry Opera–**

“Asitha Tennekoon's fresh and free lyrical tenor voice was a delight to the ears, and perfect for the role earnest, single-minded Paul. As Paul journeyed from hope to despair, darker, weightier colours crept into Tennekoon's tone, making every note of Paul's heartbreaking music visceral to the listener. I was actually on the edge of my seat during his performance of the aria that I am going to name ‘*Gets There*’, where we learn of his mystical ability.”

**Keira Grant, Mooney on Theatre**

“The surprise of the night was Asitha Tennekoon....his silky, emotional presence on stage – both vocally and dramatically – gave the show a powerful focus.”

**Robert Harris, The Globe & Mail**

“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.”

**Gregory Finney, Schmopera.com**

“...bright, nicely resonant tenor... with expression and sensitive phrasing”

**Joseph So, Musical Toronto**

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### **As the Evangelist in *St. Mark Passion* with Toronto Bach Festival –**

“His mastery of the drama in the Evangelist’s story-telling matched his vocal clarity and superb musicianship.”

**David Richards, TorontoConcertReviews.ca**

### **As The Marchese in *La Cecchina* with the Glenn Gould School –**

“The Marchese, perhaps the role that requires the most varied virtuosity, went to recent graduate (and rising star) Asitha Tennekoon. His rather beautiful lyric tenor was well suited to the music and he was convincing in portraying his character.”

**John Gilks, Opera Ramblings**

### **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**

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