

Graeme Danby

“ *In a striking powder pink costume, this British basso buffo puts his comic verve to the service of a Don Magnifico of a startling velocity. Each of his interventions hits the bulls-eye.* ”

Stafford Law

Stafford Law

Graeme Danby

is widely recognised as one of Britain's finest character basses.

For the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, he has sung: Billy Jackrabbit; Charrington (1984); Gonzalo (*The Tempest*); Second Armed Man; Casino Manager (*The Gambler*) and il Sacristano (*Tosca*).

For English National Opera, he has sung roles including: Bartolo; Basilio; Collatinus; Dulcamara; Quince; Pistol; Pooh-Bah; Ribbing; Sacristan; Sarastro; Snug and Somnus in more than 1000 appearances with the company.

Further UK engagements include Bartolo for Opera North and the Garsington Festival; Antonio for the Glyndebourne Festival; Collatinus, Talbot (*Giovanna d'Arco*) and Alvaro (*Alzira*) at the Buxton Festival; Superintendent Budd (*Albert Herring*) and Ashby (*La Fanciulla del West*) for Opera North and Don Magnifico, Sacristan, Bosun (*Billy Budd*), Benedict (*La Vie Parisienne*), Don Magnifico and Masetto for Scottish Opera.

International engagements include: Brag (*Fairy Queen*) at the Teatro Liceu; Somnus, Bartolo and Doctor Swallow with De Vlaamse Opera; Don Magnifico at Opéra de Rouen; Doctor (*Wozzeck*) and Publio at the Salzburger Landestheater; Xuthus (*Ion*) at the Opera National du Rhin Strasbourg; Snug (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*) and The Big Boss/Fyodor/Newspaper Seller (*A Dog's Heart*) at the Teatro alla Scala, Milan, Parsons (1984) at the Palau Reina Sofia, Valencia and Swallow (*Peter Grimes*) at the Teatro Sao Carlos in Lisbon.

Recent engagements include: Bartolo (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*) with Irish National Opera, Neue Oper Friborg and Israeli Opera, *Midsummer Night's Dream* with ENO and the Israeli Opera, Alvaro (*Alzira*) at the Buxton Festival, his debut with the LA Philharmonic, and *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Powder her Face* with the Neue Oper Friborg in Balzano, Friborg, Ljubljana and Paris.

His recordings include: Lulu, A Masked Ball, The Magic Flute and Salome for Chandos Opera in English; and *The Tempest* for EMI.



Candleway / Broad Street / Sutton Valence / Kent / ME17 3AJ
telephone (44) (0) 1622 840 038/ email:staffordlaw@btinternet.com
<http://www.stafford-law.com>

Stafford Law Ltd act as Agents only and accept no responsibility as Principals
Managing Director: Dominic Stafford Uglow Registered in England & Wales Company No. :04451527Member of the IAMA

Stafford Law

Graeme Danby reviews

Irish National Opera, Don Pasquale

And so it is that the elderly Pasquale appears clad in hospital gown and Y-fronts, waltzing with a large wholesale consignment of Viagra. In his every moment, bass Graeme Danby moves and mugs and poses with comic brilliance. He makes you relish the approaching comeuppance for Pasquale after he spitefully disowns his nephew and plans to produce an heir himself—**The Irish Times**

The English bass Graeme Danby, a specialist in the role, sings the Don and adds a splendid comedy performance—**The Irish Independent**

Despite his coldheartedness toward Ernesto, Danby's incarnation of Don Pasquale retains our sympathy throughout. This is perhaps key to the palatability of this update. Why should the Viagra-chugging Don not be allowed to feel frisky in old age, after all? - **The Irish Examiner**

Graeme Danby gets it just right as the old dupe, brilliant with the patter in the Act 2 finale and able to contort his funny mug as the situation demands, but he doesn't force the singing - **The Arts Desk**

Bass Graeme Danby is a wonderful cejit as Don Pasquale, simultaneously villainous and endearing - **The Independent**

Theatre Louis Jovet, Paris, The Importance of Being Earnest

Le rôle travesti de Lady Bracknell est confié à Graeme Danby, le chanteur portant une large palette de couleurs et une grande étendue vocale, depuis les profondeurs jusqu'à la voix de fausset, il est toujours en maîtrise de son instrument. L'aspect autoritaire du personnage sur scène correspond à l'autorité et à la puissance sonore de Danby : quand il chante/déclame l'hymne européen, il fait preuve d'une remarquable précision rythmique et d'une articulation nette du texte allemand, grâce à la longueur du souffle qui lui permet de prononcer plusieurs mots (allitérés) très rapidement - **Vogin Jaglicic, Olyrix.com**

Translation: *The cross-dressing role of Lady Bracknell is put in the hands of Graeme Danby, the singer bringing to it a large range of colours and a very extended vocal range, from the depths right up to the falsetto, he is always the master of his instrument. The authoritarian aspects of the on-stage character always corresponds to the authority and power of Danby: when he sings/declaims the European Hymn, he makes evident a remarkable rhythmic precision and a clean articulation of the German text, thanks to an*

Theatre Louis Jovet, Paris, Powder Her Face

Basse à tout faire, Graeme Danby vit son air de gloire en juge grand-guignolesque.

Translation: *All-purpose bass, Graeme Danby absolutely inhabits his glorious aria as the grotesque judge.*

English National Opera, Xerxes

Graeme Danby spun a grand buffo role out of minimal material as Elviro. – **Evening Standard**

Clownish baritone Graeme Danby playing Arsamenes' obliging servant Elviro, personifies opera buffo disguised as a flower-hawker in Act II – **Times Literary Supplement**

Irish National Opera, Il barbiere di Siviglia

Despite Graeme Danby's Dr Bartolo looking thoroughly disreputable and sleazy (aided by the bling jewellery, white suit, dark shirt and light-coloured sunglasses) he gave an illuminating performance. He blustered convincingly with stunningly clear diction and like his rival, Almaviva, he too possessed the comic touch. His forthright rejection of Basilio's cunning plan was hilarious as was his falsetto singing in Act II - **The Arts Desk**

English National Opera, Carmen

While a genuinely intimidating Graeme Danby is the lewd and gruff Zuniga - **The Arts Desk**

Royal Opera Covent Garden, The Blackened Man

Armstrong is the most interesting character, and brilliantly sung by Graeme Danby: a revolutionary who is against the strike — “not strikes but burning” — he tries to prevent a row between Will and the magistrate before wiggling out himself – **The Times**

Royal Opera Covent Garden, 1984

Maazel's project is much blessed by the quality of his singers. Nancy Gustafson is a winning Julia, Graeme Danby and Richard Margison respectively sinister and threatening as Charrington and O'Brien – **The Daily Mail**

English National Opera, The Mikado

Graeme Danby is a fine Pooh-Bah, whose multi-tasking as chancellor of the exchequer and lord chief justice may have triggered a few ideas for the head of the civil service Sir Jeremy Heywood, who was sitting in the stalls on the first night - **The Guardian**

Candleway / Broad Street / Sutton Valence / Kent / ME17 3AJ
telephone (44) (0) 1622 840 038/ email:staffordlaw@btinternet.com
http://www.stafford-law.com

Stafford Law Ltd act as Agents only and accept no responsibility as Principals
Managing Director: Dominic Stafford Uglov Registered in England & Wales Company No. :04451527Member of the IAMA

Stafford Law

Graeme Danby partial repertoire

Composer	Opera	Role
Ades	Powder her Face The Tempest	The Duke, The Judge, The Hotel Manager Gonzalo
Barry	The Importance of Being Earnest	Lady Bracknell
Berg	Lulu Wozzeck	Banker Doctor
Britten	Albert Herring A Midsummer Night's Dream Swallow The Rape of Lucretia	Superintendent Budd Quince, Snug Peter Grimes Collatinus
Donizetti	Don Pasquale	Don Pasquale
Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro Die Zauberflote	Bartolo Sarastro, Der Sprecher
Puccini	La fanciulla del West Madama Butterfly Tosca	Ashby The Bonze Sacristano
Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia La Cenerentola Guillaume Tell	Dr Bartolo Don Magnifico Gessler
Verdi	Giovanna d'Arco	Talbot

Candleway / Broad Street / Sutton Valence / Kent / ME17 3AJ
telephone (44) (0) 1622 840 038/ email:staffordlaw@btinternet.com
<http://www.stafford-law.com>

Stafford Law Ltd act as Agents only and accept no responsibility as Principals
Managing Director: Dominic Stafford Uglow Registered in England & Wales Company No. :04451527Member of the IAMA

Stafford Law

VIDEOS

[Rossini, Il barbiere di Siviglia: Duet and Aria](#)

With Tara Erraught, Irish National Opera

[Handel, Semele: Leave me, Loathsome Light!](#)

English National Opera

[Maazel, 1984: Smith and Charrington](#)

With Simon Keenleyside, Royal Opera Covent Garden

[Berg, Lulu: It's Looking good!](#)

English National Opera, cond. Paul Daniel

[INO Shorts, Wake up, Son!](#)

Irish National Opera

Candleway / Broad Street / Sutton Valence / Kent / ME17 3AJ
telephone (44) (0) 1622 840 038/ email:staffordlaw@btinternet.com
<http://www.stafford-law.com>

Stafford Law Ltd act as Agents only and accept no responsibility as Principals
Managing Director: Dominic Stafford Uglow Registered in England & Wales Company No. :04451527Member of the IAMA

