

BIOGRAPHY

Canadian baritone **Mark Wilkinson** is a noted chamber musician and opera singer whose eclectic career has expressed a versatility of artistry founded in a gift for truthful storytelling in a vast array of repertoire. Equally an actor and classical musician, his exciting voice and disarming personality have earned the respect of audiences around the world.

Known as a consummate collaborator, his chamber music and recital appearances have taken him through traditional repertoire, experimental stage works, cabaret, choral music, black-box theatres, and premiere works. Highlights include the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, the Music and Beyond Festival with PDQ Bach, the Early Music Festival of Alberta with the late Brian Asawa, The Aldeburgh Connection, the Ottawa International Writers Festival with Margaret Atwood, Soundstreams Canada with Maria Guinand (CBC Radio), the Governor General of Canada's Performing Arts Awards with R. Murray Schafer (CBC Television), the King's College Chapel Choir and Ensemble Regale with Paul Halley (CBC Radio), Les Plaisirs du clavecin, East Chamber Music, the Franz Schubert Institute and subsequent performances throughout Austria with pianist Christina LeRose, the Arts Club of Washington, D.C. with pianist Audrey Andrist, and a long-time collaboration with the Sesquisharp Ensemble and its forward-thinking creations.

Equally a specialist in intimate operatic and theatrical projects, he has portrayed Adonis (*Venus and Adonis*) for the Early Music Festival of Alberta, Pluton (*La Déscente d'Orphée aux Enfers*) for Le Nouvel Opéra and the Orford Arts Centre, Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*) for Opera Inside Out and the Toronto Summer Opera, Aeneas (*Dido and Aeneas*) for Ottawa Pocket Opera and Unicorn Theatre, Morales (*Carmen*) for Carmen on TAP and the Velvet Room, Bob (*The Old Maid and the Thief*) for the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, Mark (*I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*) for the Masque Chamber Theatre Players, Gerry (*Anne of Green Gables*) for the 1000 Islands Playhouse, Frank (*Mrs. Warren's Profession*) and Pirelli (*Sweeney Todd*) for Theatre Western and the Purple Shorts Festival, and the world premiere of Ryan Keebaugh's *DeScenT inTo mAdnEss* for the Sesquisharp Ensemble.

His traditional symphonic and oratorio appearances have taken him to the Edmonton Symphony, the Richard Eaton Singers, the Early Music Festival of Alberta, l'Orchestre symphonique de Gatineau, the Alberta Baroque Orchestra, the Ottawa Baroque Consort, Da Camera Singers, Pro Coro Canada, the Canadian Centennial Choir, the Cantata Singers of Ottawa, and numerous ensembles across Canada and the United States. For something completely different, Dr. Wilkinson recently toured the United States as soloist with the famed Ohio State Men's Glee Club in collaboration with such organizations as Harvard University, the University of Michigan, Bowling Green State University, Albion College, the Ohio Music Educators Association, and regional choral outreach programs.

His major teachers were Torin Chiles, Matthew Gibson, Sandra Graham, Elizabeth Turnbull, Robin Rice, and Scott McCoy; he also owes a fond debt of gratitude to the many colleagues who have taught him so much over the years. Dr. Wilkinson is in-demand for his masterclasses, voice health clinics, pedagogy training, and choral technique workshops to universities, conservatories, and professional and amateur organizations throughout North America.