

ASKAR ABDRAZAKOV

Bass

Askar Abdrazakov - People's Artist of Bashkortostan, Bashkir Opera and Ballet Theatre soloist is well-known in the world of opera art. He comes from Ufa (Russia) and got his music education in Ufa Arts Institute, which he graduated from in 1996. His teacher and mentor was M. Murtazina, Honoured Figure of Arts of Russia Federation and of Bashkortostan. In Moscow Abdrazakov took special courses under a famous singer, People's Artist of the USSR, Irina Arkhipova.

When was a student he started his activity taking part and winning various competitions such as the First Prize and the Special Prize "To the Youngest Participant" at the International F. Shalyapin Bass Competition in Kazan (1994), International Maria Callas Competition in Greece (1995); International Sergei Rachmaninov Competition in Moscow (1998).

Abdrazakov possesses a naturally musical voice of excellent and rich timber. He has performed in the most important theatrical institutions in USA and Japan, South Africa and Greece, Italy, Austria, France, Spain. He sang on the stage of the Bolshoi Theatre as Prince Gremin in *Eugene Onegin* by Tchaikovsky; as Prince Igor and as Kontchack in *Prince Igor* by Borodin; as Tzar Boris in *Boris Godunov* by Mussorgsky and on the stage of the Mariinsky Theatre as Ruslan in *Ruslan and Lyudmila*, as Kotchubej in *Mazepa* by Tchaikovsky, as Prince Igor in *Prince Igor* by Borodin). The world première *Visions of Ioann Grozny* by Slonimsky, staged in Samara, orchestra conducting by Rostropovitch became a remarkable event in the singer's career - Abdrazakov performed the part of Tzar Ioann.

In Paris at the Théâtre du Chatelet he performed the role of the Bonze in *Le Rossignol* by Stravinsky, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Pierre Boulez; the performances was reviewed in the biggest cities of Europe: Brussels, London, Rome, Seville, Berlin.

Highlight of his past and recent performances include: *Ruslan and Lyudmila* and *Prince Igor* conducted by Gergiev at the New York Metropolitan Opera; *Mazepa* under the baton of Rostropovitch at the Teatro alla Scala; Ramphis in *Aida* and Zaccaria in *Nabucco* at the Arena di Verona. In Bologna and Parma he sang as Grande Inquisitore (*Don Carlos*) and take part in a Japan tour with the Teatro Comunale of Bologna. He also appeared in Berlin and Trieste to perform the title role in *Attila*; in Lisbon to sing Ramfis in *Aida*; in Barcelona to sing Count Walter in *Luisa Miller* and Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*; in Florence as Tzar Saltan in *The Tale of Tzar Saltan*; in Torino in *Faust* with Michel Plasson and in Cagliari in *Aida* under the baton of Lorin Maazel. In 2006-2007 season he sang as Timur in *Turandot* staged by Luca Ronconi at the Teatro Regio di Torino and subsequently as Leporello (*Don Giovanni*) under the baton of Placido Domingo at the Washington National Opera. He recently sang *Mefistofele* at the Teatro Massimo of Palermo.

Among his future engagements, *Aida* (Ramphis) at the Teatro Massimo in Palermo and *Le Roi Arthus* (Mordred) at the Teatro Lirico of Cagliari.

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