

*"Ainsworth has always been blessed with an unusually high, pure tenor. Now it thrills with remarkable power and expressivity." Stagedoor 2016*

Colin Ainsworth has distinguished himself not only with his interpretations of the major Classical and Baroque tenor roles but also by his performances in contemporary opera. His many performances have included the title roles in *Orphée et Euridice*, *Pygmalion*, *Castor et Pollux*, *Roberto Devereux* and *Albert Herring*; Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Ernesto in *Don Pasquale*, Rinnucio in *Gianni Schicchi*, Fenton in *Falstaff*, Tonio in *La Fille du Régiment*, Nadir in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, Pylades in *Iphigénie en Tauride*, Renaud in Lully's *Armide*, Tom Rakewell in *The Rake's Progress*, and Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. An avid supporter of new works, he has appeared in the world premieres of John Estacio's *Lillian Alling* at the Vancouver Opera, Stuart MacRae's *The Assassin Tree* at the Edinburgh International Festival, Victor Davies' *The Transit of Venus* with the Manitoba Opera, and Rufus Wainwright's *Prima Donna* at Sadler's Wells in London and at the Luminato Festival. Other past opera engagements have included appearances with the Royal Opera (London), Canadian Opera Company, Chicago Opera Theatre, Glimmerglass Opera, L'Opéra de Français, Opera Atelier, Pacific Opera Victoria, Edmonton Opera, and the Greek National Opera. This past season, he made three debuts; one with Opera Columbus in Lully's *Armide*; Seattle Opera as the Steuermann in *Der fliegende Holländer*, and with Teatro Nacional São Carlos as Pylades in *Iphigénie en Tauride*. He appeared in concert with Jane Glover and the Music of the Baroque, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, and the Grand Philharmonic Choir.

Also a prolific concert singer, Mr. Ainsworth has appeared with the Cincinnati Symphony, Montreal Symphony, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Ensemble Pygmalion, Vancouver Symphony, Calgary Symphony, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra of San Francisco, Music of the Baroque in Chicago, Mercury Baroque in Houston, Les Violons du Roy in Montreal, and Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra in Toronto. He has also appeared at the Lanaudiere, Montreal Baroque, Elora and the Aldeburgh Connection festivals, and has toured throughout Germany. His vast concert and recital repertoire includes Bach's *Mass in B Minor* and *St. John's Passion*, Handel's *Messiah*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Schubert's *Dichterliebe* and Janáček's *Diary of One Who Vanished*.

Mr. Ainsworth's growing discography includes Vivaldi's *La Griselda* (Naxos), *Castor et Pollux* (Naxos), Schubert Among Friends (Marquis Classics), *Gloria in Excelsis Deo* with the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra (CBC Records), the collected masses of Vanhal, Haydn, and Cherubini with Nicholas McGegan (Naxos), and the premiere recording of Derek Holman's *The Heart Mislaid* which was included on the Alderburgh Connection's *Our Own Songs* (Marquis Classics). He also appears in a live DVD recording of Lully's *Persée* with the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra (Euroarts). His new disc, *A Play of Passion*, featuring the music of Derek Holman with Stephen Ralls and Bruce Ubukata has just been released.

This season, Mr. Ainsworth returns to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra as soloist in Jeffrey Ryan's new composition *Afghanistan: Requiem for a Generation* as part of Canada's 150th Birthday celebration and the Canada Mosaic collaboration. He also will return to Chicago's Music of the Baroque in Handel's *Esther*.