

Ronald Samm

Tenor

Ronald Samm was born in Port of Spain. He studied voice and piano with Noelle Barker and Ian Kennedy at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and won a scholarship from the Peter Moores/Lord Pitt Foundation to pursue post-graduate study with Nicholas Powell at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. After the RNCM, Ronald worked with British Youth Opera, Travelling Opera, Broomhill Opera and Glyndebourne Festival Opera and became a trainee at the National Opera Studio sponsored by the Sybill Tutton Awards and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

2017 saw Ronald assume the role of **Lazarus** in staged performances of John Adams's *The Gospel According to the Other Mary* for Theater Bonn, and take part in further performances of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* in Kazan, Russia. He also appeared at The Grange Festival during summer 2017 as **Iro (Irus)** in *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*. Ronald's 17/18 season opened with performances of Siegfried in Act III of Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* with Wuppertal Opera. He then appeared with Scottish Opera as **Canio** for performances of Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci* during August 2018. Ronald opened his 18/19 season with **Peter/Porgy and Bess** and Britten's *War Requiem* at English National Opera, which then toured to the Dutch National Opera. The production of *Porgy and Bess* went on to win Olivier and South Bank Awards for Best Opera. During 2019, he sang **Walther von Stolzing/ Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg** for Fulham Opera, and **Olim/Der Silbersee** for English Touring Opera. Ronald makes two appearances in Cork during 2020 – in John O'Brian's *Deirdre and the Sons of Usna* and as **Canio** in *I Pagliacci*.

Ronald Samm assumed the title role in Verdi's *Otello* in December 2010 with the Birmingham Opera Company, gaining widespread critical acclaim for his portrayal of this most demanding of roles. He reprised this role for Nordlands Opera in Umea at the beginning of 2011 and for Opera North at the beginning of 2013. He has performed in *Porgy and Bess* with Opera de Lyon at the Edinburgh International Festival and in Kazan, Russia, and given concert performances of *Porgy and Bess* with the Iceland Symphony Orchestra.

His wide range of repertoire and appearances also include **Tamino/Die Zauberflöte**; Don Jose/*Carmen* for Pegasus Opera; **Drum-Major/Wozzeck** for Birmingham Opera Company; the title role in Britten's *The Prodigal Son*; **Jake/Porgy and Bess** in Lisbon, **Florestan** in the multi-award winning production of *Fidelio*, again for Birmingham Opera Company, directed by Graham Vick, **Sigemund/Die Walküre** at St John's, Smith Square in London, **Orpheus/Orpheus** at Everyman Theatre, Cork, and *Between Worlds* at the Barbican Hall in London for English National Opera. In September 2015 he returned to Berwick Festival Opera to sing **Sigmund** in Jonathan Dove's reduced version of *Die Walküre*, and in 2016 performed in a concert at the Royal Festival Hall with the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Jurowski celebrating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death.

Ronald Samm's oratorio repertoire includes Handel's *Messiah*; Bach's *Magnificat* and *St. John Passion*; Mendelssohn's *Elijah*; Beethoven's *Mass in C*; Mozart *Requiem*; Verdi *Requiem*, and Stainer's *Crucifixion*. He appeared as The Preacher in Bernstein's *Mass* at the 2012 BBC Proms with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, a role he reprised in Montpellier in 2013. During the summer of 2013 Ronald performed at Buckingham Palace, in the presence of HRH Prince Charles, in an evening of music called 'The Golden Story' with Thomas Hampson, Bryn Terfel and Rebecca Evans, conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano.