**Simon Thorpe – Baritone.** Simon studied at the Guildhall School of Music and the National Opera Studio. Recent and future plans include Escamillo, *Carmen;* Telramund, *Lohengrin;* and Salerio *Merchant of Venice* (Welsh National Opera); Manfredo, *L’Amore dei tre Re* (Opera Holland Park); Amonasro, *Aida* (Lyric Opera‚ Dublin); Scarpia, *Tosca* (Opéra de Baugé); Herald, *Lohengrin* (Opéra de Toulon and WNO) and *Rigoletto* (Opera Project).

He has sung Escamillo, *Carmen* and Belcore, *L’elisir d’amore* for Scottish Opera; Zurga‚ *Les pêcheurs de perles*; Lescaut, *Manon Lescaut* and Sharpless, *Madama Butterfly,* Jack Rance, *La fanciulla del West* for Opera Holland Park‚ Donald *Billy Budd*; Belcore, *L’elisir d’amore*; Marcello *La bohème*; Scarpia *Tosca*; Ford *Falstaff* and Kothner *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (also at the BBC Proms) for Welsh National Opera; The Duke, *Roméo et Juliette*; Kuligin, *Katya Kabanova*; Sharpless, *Madama Butterfly* and Marullo, *Rigoletto* for Opera North; Anckarström, *Un ballo in maschera* for Cork Opera 2005 and the title role in *Falstaff* for Longborough Festival Opera.

International engagements have included Don Pizarro, *Fidelio* for Opéra de Baugé; Pacheco, *Inés de Castro* with Scottish Opera in Lisbon; Sharpless, *Madama Butterfly* and Scarpia, *Tosca* for Lyric Opera Dublin and Sharpless for Singapore Lyric Opera. The Steward, *Flight;* Escamillo, *Carmen* and Roucher, *Andrea Chénier* with the State Opera of South Australia and The Forester *The Cunning Little Vixen*‚ Private Willis *Iolanthe* and Montano *Otello* for Opera Australia.

His recordings include Second Mate/Arthur Jones, *Billy Budd* with Kent Naganoand on Erato and a more recent Opera Rara CD playing the role of Duclou in Leoncavallo’s *Zazá*. He sings regularly in concert‚ at major venues including the Barbican‚ Queen Elizabeth Hall‚ Royal Albert Hall and Bridgewater Hall. Particular highlights have included Carmina Burana with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, the Fauré Requiem with the Choir of King’s College‚ Cambridge‚ conducted by Nicholas Cleobury‚ Messiah with the Armonico Consort‚ Elijah at St David’s Hall‚ Cardiff and Mozart Requiem with the Hallé Orchestra conducted by Stanislaw Skrowacewski.