



James Newby

Baritone

Kathleen Ferrier Awards final 2016 (1st prize)

Newby's *Papageno's Aria* was intensely idiomatic, the sad clown incarnate, and he invested in *Erkönig* with dark dramatic force, while his account of Butterworth's *Is My Team Ploughing* was exquisitely nuanced.

Michael Church, The Independent, 3 May 2016 (5)*

Baritone James Newby[...]showed impressive maturity in a diverse programme. Newby demonstrated care, thoughtfulness and clarity in the shaping of Mozart's phrases [...] Schubert's *Erkönig* was exciting: fast, vibrant and emotionally febrile and Newby embodied all four protagonists with striking directness. Massenet's *Danse macabre* revealed also a rich lower register and a telling way with the text.

Britten's *Look, through the port comes the moonshine astray* (Billy Budd) began with a flow of sensuous anticipation. Newby's free vocal line was beautifully lyrical and expertly phrased, with well-controlled breathing and dynamics, and a teasing pianissimo. As the aria developed, the tenor conveyed Billy's vigour forcefully, but the sentiments were never over-staged, as Newby sang with stylishness and vitality. The vocal lines had smoothness and continuity, the many and slight ritardandos were impressively negotiated, sustained high notes were vehement but not forced, and the coda was explosive but always controlled.

Claire Seymour, Opera Today, 2 May 2016

BACH St John Passion, Cheltenham Bach Choir & Corelli Orchestra, David Crown

Baritone James Newby and countertenor James Laing were also outstanding.

Tony Whelpton, Gloucestershire Echo, 14 March 2016

Recital programme – Perth Festival

Amir Farid at a Kawai grand, was in thrilling form as was baritone James Newby in other lieder and Saint Saens' *Danse Macabre*. And the aching sadness of Butterworth's setting of *A Shropshire Lad* was evoked to the nth degree.

Neville Cohn, The West Australian, March 1, 2016