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Biography (english)

The Australian tenor Michael Smallwood commenced vocal training while completing a law degree at the University of Melbourne. After studies at the Victorian College of the Arts, the Australian National Academy of Music and New York's Juilliard School, he entered the prestigious Opera Studio of the Hamburg State Opera in 2001, later becoming a member of the ensemble.

Freelance since 2004, he has worked in many major houses in Europe and the US, including The Santa Fe Opera, Opéra National de Paris, Glyndebourne, The Flemish Opera (Vlaamse Opera), Opéra de Lyon, Chicago Opera Theater, Badisches Staatstheater, Deutsche Staatsoper (Berlin), the Komische Oper Berlin, Barcelona's Liceu, the Nederlandse Opera, Staatsoper Kassel, Opera Australia, as well as returning regularly to the Hamburg State Opera.

In opera and concert he has worked with many important conductors including Yves Abel, Richard Farnes, Vladimir Jurowski, Friedemann Layer, Ingo Metzmacher, Julius Rudel, Ulf Schirmer, Steven Sloane, Stefan Soltesz, Constantinos Carydis, Ilan Volkov, Alfred Eschwe, Josep Pons and Simone Young. A sought-after performer of baroque music, his collaborators include William Christie, Alessandro de Marchi, Michael Hofstetter, Jane Glover, Thomas Hengelbrock and Konrad Junghänel.

His operatic roles span the length and breadth of the repertoire: from Monteverdi's »Orfeo«, Acis, Grimoaldo (»Rodelinda«) and Oronte (»Alcina«), Ferrando (»Così fan tutte«), through Kudrjas (»Katya Kabanova«), Lysander and Flute (»A Midsummer Night's Dream«) and Albert Herring, Andres (»Wozzeck«), and Truffaldino (»L'Amour des Trois Oranges«). No stranger to modern music, he has performed works by Luigi Nono, Hans Werner Henze, Bernd Alois Zimmerman, Peter Eötvös, Jonathan Dove, Olga Neuwirth and Ned Rorem. Festival appearances have included: Ravinia, Aspen, the Melbourne International Festival of the Arts, the Ruhr Triennale, Lincoln Center Festival and the Händel Festspiele (Halle and Karlsruhe).

The 2007/2008 season included debuts at Berlin's Komische Oper (Handel's »Orest«), »Pique Dame« in Antwerp, Frank Martin's »Le Vin Herbé« at the Ruhrtriennale, »Die Entführung aus dem Serail« at the Nederlandse Opera, and Jancek's »Diary of One Who Disappeared« at Barcelona's Liceu. In 2008 he returned to the Vlaamse Opera, Opera de Lyon, the Hamburg State Opera, and made his debut at New York's Lincoln Center Festival. In 2009 he can be heard at the Kassel State Theatre as Poulenc's Chevalier de la Force, as Belmonte in Zomeropera Alden Biesen, The Naked Youth in Willy Decker's new production of »Moses und Aron« for the RuhrTriennale, in Phillip Glass' »In the Penal Colony« at the Lyon Opera, as well as in concert in Australia, Potsdam, Kalkriese, Spain and Rome.