

Pavlo Balakin (bass)

First music degree is from the jazz saxophone class of the Donetsk Music Academy in Ukraine (2006). Thereafter the Ukrainian born bass studied singing at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre with Prof Mati Palm. In addition, he has worked regularly with a number of great coaches, among them Jaakko Ryhanen, Richard Barker, Kristin Okerlund and Jeffrey Goldberg.

In 2016, Pavlo Balakin made his debut in Italy – singing the title role of Attila in Verdi's "Attila" at Teatro Massimo di Palermo – and continued during the summer as Dottore Grenvil in the production of "La Traviata" at Opera di Firenze. In 2017, his main roles included the title role in Verdi's "Attila" and Hermann in Wagner's "Tannhäuser" at Teatro La Fenice; Ramfis in "Aida" and Provost marshal in Hindemith's "Cardillac" at the Estonian National Opera. In Autumn 2017 he had his debut at the Den Jyske Opera in Denmark as Dulcamara in their new production of Donizetti's "L'elisir d'amore"

In Summer 2018 Pavlo performed at Opera på Skäret in G. Verdi opera "Don Carlo" in the roles of Grand Inquisitor and the Monk. November 2018 Pavlo sang in A. Dvořák "Stabat Mater", with Maestro Christoph Eschenbach & Odense Symphony Orchestra in Denmark. In 2020, he performed the title role in "Don Pasquale" of Donizetti in Estonian National Opera. His performances at the Latvian National Opera (in Riga) in season 2021- 2022 included such works as : Zaccaria in "Nabucco", Walter in "Luisa Miller" and Ramfis in "Aida" of Verdi, Don Magnifico in "Cenerentola" of Rossini and Commendatore in "Don Giovanni" of Mozart. In 2023 Pavlo sang the title role of the King in Wagner's "Lohengrin" at the Estonian National Opera and the role of Bluebeard in Bartok's opera "Duke Bluebeard's Castle" at the Estonian Summer Opera Festival in Narva.

In addition to the previously mentioned, Pavlo's repertoire includes roles, such as Méphistophélès (Gounod's "Faust"), Enrico ("Anna Bolena"), Daland ("The Flying Dutchman"), Ptolemy (Händel's "Julius Caesar"), Monterone ("Rigoletto"), Boriss and Pimen (Mussorgsky's "Boriss Godunov") and Salieri (Rimsky-Korsakov's "Mozart and Salieri" .

Pavlo Balakin has worked with many renowned conductors, among them Daniel Oren, Riccardo Frizza, Omer Meir Wellber, Fabrizio Maria Carminati, Eri Klas, Andres Mustonen, Vello Pähn, Arvo Volmer; and with numerous highly acclaimed directors, such as Dmitry Bertman, Daniel Slater, Daniele Abbado, Calixto Bieito, Georg Rootering, Pamela Recinella, Vilppu Kiljunen, Andreis Zagars and Tobias Kratzer.

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