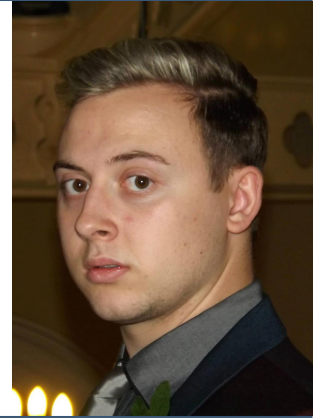


ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Kieron-Connor Valentine

Counter-Tenor

Artist Manager: Rhian Williams
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Welsh counter-tenor Kieron-Connor Valentine is a graduate of the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, where he studied with David Lowe. During his time at the RNCMD he performed **L'humana fragilita** in Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*, conducted by Roger Hamilton; **Oberon** in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, conducted by Andrew Greenwood and most recently **Didymus** in Handel's *Theodora*, conducted by Roger Hamilton.

This season, he joins the M.A Opera Performance course at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff.

In 2018 Kieron-Connor joined the Britten-Pears Programme at Aldeburgh Festival in the role of **Didymus** in *Theodora*.

During summer 2017 Kieron recorded the soundtrack to a new Welsh opera film, commissioned by Welsh National Opera and S4C and composed by Stephen McNeff, based on the life of the 1st World War poet, Hedd Wyn.

Performance highlights to date include a recital of Renaissance and Baroque song at Cadogan Hall, Chelsea as part of the London Master Class Series; a UK tour with the Military Wives and his début at the BBC Proms as **The Lost Boy** in *The Water Diviners Tale*, conducted by David Charles Abell.

In concert, Kieron-Connor has performed Beethoven's *Mass in C Major*, conducted by Ian Chesworth at St. Michael and All Saints Church, Macclesfield; Handel's *Messiah*, conducted by Owen Roberts at St. Giles Parish Church, Wrexham; Jenkins' *The Armed Man*, conducted by Owen Roberts at William Aston Hall, Wrexham; Orff's *Carmina Burana*, conducted by Richard Lea at the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool and Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, conducted by John Powell at the Royal Northern College of Music Concert Hall.

Recent competition success includes the 2018 Douglas Rees Memorial Young Opera Singer of the Year and the 2018 Dunraven Welsh Young Singer. Over the years, he has won the titles of Southport Singer of the Year; Liverpool Singer of the Year; The Stiw Young Singer of the Year; Liverpool's Most Promising Singer of the Year Award and most recently the 2018 Dunraven Welsh Young Singer of the Year and 2018 Douglas Rees Memorial Young Opera Singer of the Year.

Kieron-Connor is kindly supported by the Arts Council of Wales and the Ryan Davies Memorial Fund.

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