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JULIAN CLOSE

BASS

Noted as having “a rich voice that appears to come from the centre of the earth,” as well as, simply, “a voice to die for,” Julian Close stands as one of the most critically acclaimed basses in the UK, having performed at several esteemed opera houses and venues throughout his career including The Metropolitan Opera, The Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, The Royal Albert Hall, Barbican Centre, The Bridgewater Hall, Opera North UK, Scottish Opera and the Wexford, Buxton, Longborough, and English Bach Festivals in a wide range of roles. He has also made numerous television and radio broadcasts for the BBC.

Last season, Julian returned to The Metropolitan Opera to cover Sparafucile in **Rigoletto**, and he returned to Irish National Opera and débuted at Dorset Opera Festival to sing the same role. In addition, he recently made his company début at Irish National Opera to sing the First Soldier in **Salome**, returned to The Royal Opera House at Covent Garden for their production of **Das Rheingold**, and returned to Longborough Festival Opera for Wagner’s **Ring Cycle** and Debussy’s **Pelléas et Mélisande**. This season, Mr. Close returns to Irish National Opera for their production of **The Bartered Bride** and makes his highly anticipated début at Grange Park Opera as the Grand Inquisitor in **Don Carlo** and Don Basilio in **Il barbiere di Siviglia**.



In recent seasons, Julian returned to The Metropolitan Opera for **Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk**, **Rigoletto**, and **Don Carlo**. Additionally, he returned to both the Scottish Opera as Simone/Talpa in **Il tritico** and the Longborough Festival for their long-awaited **Götterdämmerung**, and he was seen with his wife Rebecca Afonwy-Jones in the Kent, UK’s JAM on the Marsh Festival.

Previously, Close performed in **Rosenkavalier** for Garsington Opera Festival and in Holst’s **Savitri** as Death with the Leeds Opera Festival. 2020 and 2021 engagements were to include returns to The Metropolitan Opera for **Tristan und Isolde**, **Fidelio**, and **Lulu**, returns to the Longborough Festival and English National Opera for their productions of **Die Walküre**, and Wagner’s **Ring Cycle** with the Lyric Opera Chicago. Mr. Close made his long-awaited house début at the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden in **The Magic Flute**, he joined The Metropolitan Opera for their productions of **Das Rheingold** and **Götterdämmerung**, **Otello**, **Pelleas et Melisande**, and **Rigoletto**, and he made his house début at Opéra de Montréal as Fasolt in **Das Rheingold**. He also performed the role of Don Juan in **From the House of the Dead** with Welsh National Opera and the role of Wotan in the third act of **Die Walküre** with New Palace Opera. Additionally, Mr. Close performed the role of Hunding in **Die Walküre** with Saffron Opera Group, Fafner in **Das Rheingold** with Minnesota Opera, and Ramfis in **Aida** with Pacific Symphony. He first joined the roster of The Metropolitan Opera in 2011 for their production of **Der Ring des Nibelungen** and has returned as a performer subsequently every season. Additional recent engagements include Hunding in a concert performance of **Die Walküre** with The Chandos Orchestra; Don Basilio in **Il barbiere di Siviglia** with the Longborough Festival; Verdi’s **Requiem** with the Eaton Christchurch Choir in Norwich; and a return to Welsh National



Opera for **Moses und Aron** and **Nabucco**. He also returned to Opera Project for **Madama Butterfly** and joined Opera Rara for Donizetti's **Les Martyrs** at Royal Festival Hall.

Prior engagements include Angelotti in **Tosca**, Truffaldino in **Ariadne auf Naxos**, Osmin in **Die Entführung aus dem Serail**, Athlete in **Lulu**, and Bonze in **Madama Butterfly**, all with Welsh National Opera; Lodovico in **Otello** for the BBC Philharmonic; Bonze in **Madama Butterfly** and Commendatore in **Don Giovanni** with Opera Project UK; King Marke in **Tristan und Isolde** and Landgraf in **Tannhäuser** with the Northern Wagner Orchestra; Fafner in both **Das Rheingold** and **Siegfried** with the Longborough Wagner Festival, a role he also covered with The Metropolitan Opera. He also covered Lord Fortune in **Miss Fortune** for the Royal Opera, Covent Garden.

Favorite engagements from past seasons include: Wotan in **Das Rheingold**, Hagen in **Götterdämmerung**, Pogner in **Die Meistersinger**, Titirel in **Parsifal**, Steffano Colonna in **Rienzi, der Letzte der Tribunen**, Dosifey in Mussorgsky's **Khovanshina**, Vodník in **Rusalka**, Il Grand Inquisitor in **Don Carlo**, Penios in **Daphne**, Pistola in **Falstaff**, Quince in **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, Sarastro in **Die Zauberflöte**, Zuniga in **Carmen**, Mayor in **Jenůfa**, Collatinus in **The Rape of Lucretia**, Timur in **Turandot**, Colline in **La bohème**, Prince Gremin in **Eugene Onegin**, Luther and Crespel in **Les contes d'Hoffmann**, Sparafucile in **Rigoletto**, Ramfis in **Aida**, Loredano in **I due Foscari**, Nourabad in **Les pêcheurs de perles**, and Black Bob and Tom in **Let's Make an Opera**.

Also a successful concert artist, Mr. Close's orchestral repertoire includes Bach's **St. Matthew Passion**, **St. John Passion**, **Magnificat**, and **Lutheran Mass**; Beethoven's **Mass in C**; Dyson's **Canterbury Pilgrims**; Elgar's **The Dream of Gerontius** and **Caractacus**; Judas in **The Apostles**; Fauré's **Requiem**; Haydn's **Creation**; Mahler's **Symphony No. 8**; Mozart's **Requiem**, **C Minor Mass**, and **Vesperae Solennes**; Puccini's **Messa di Gloria**; Rossini's **Stabat Mater**; Verdi's **Requiem**; as well as Weber's **Second Mass in G Minor** and Stravinsky's **Les Noces** with the Michael Clarke Dance Company (Barbican Centre & The Lincoln Center, New York).

Current as of September 18, 2025