

Winner of both the Regency Prize and AM Parker award for excellence; Jake Bigwood graduated from the Royal Academy of Music (RAM) with distinction alongside an honorary Diploma of the RAM.

During his studies Jake worked with the highly sought after vocal professor and fellow Australian Raymond Connell and performed in the Royal Academy Opera's production of Britten's *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Snug) as well as scenes of Bellini's *I Puritani* (Sir Giorgio), Boito's *Mefistofele* (Mefestofele), Rossini's *Cenerentola* (Don Magnifico), and Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (Leporello and Commendatore).

Jake's final recital contained a program of Mozart, Brahms, Ravel, Wolf, Rachmaninoff, and Gounod and was deemed a "revelation" by the world renowned Lieder scholar Richard Stokes and also from Linnhe Robertson: "...an excellent vehicle for a genuine bass voice with enormous operatic potential.." This recital earned Jake a nomination for the lauded Samling institute though, due to Covid constraints, he was unable to accept.

In 2022 Jake joined West Australian Opera as a Bendat scholar and Wesfarmer's Arts Young Artist with whom he sang the roles of *Il Maestro* in Salieri's *Prima la musica e poi le parole*, *Angelotti* in *Tosca* in addition to jumping into the role of *Sciarrone* when a member of the cast became ill. He also sang the roles of *Colline* and *Ashby* for Freeze Frame Opera and was named a finalist in both the IFAC Handa Australian Singing Competition, winning the Nelly Apt prize, and the Joan Sutherland Richard Bonyngé Bel Canto Competition where he was awarded the friends of the foundation award.

The 2023 season sees Jake continue as a Young artist and Bendat scholar as well as singing the role of *Zuniga* in WA Opera's *Carmen*, Bass soloist in Bach's Easter Oratorio in a reworked collaboration with Lachlan Skipworth, and *Colline* in a new production of *La Bohème*. Jake will also feature in a multidisciplinary recital as singer and co producer with Bloomhouse productions.