MICHAEL HENRY ARCM DipRCM

Musical Director, Vocalist, Composer

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London-born baritone Michael Henry studied clarinet and composition at the Royal College of Music 1981-85. He began his professional singing career as a lead vocalist in R&B group Buddy Curtess and the Grasshoppers from 1985-'89, going on to perform full-time in a variety of groups including Flying Pickets, Shiva Nova, Errollyn Wallen's Ensemble X. The Tarantinos and 15piece a cappella choir The Shout.

He has worked in a directorial capacity with theatres that include the National, Old Vic, Young Vic, Royal Court, Almeida, Leeds Playhouse, Royal and Derngate, Northampton and Shakespeare's Globe and as a vocal animateur on several BBC, community and schools projects.

Backing vocal experiences include Diana Ross, Chaka Khan, George Michael, Robbie Williams, Chrissy Hynde, Billy Bragg, Jamelia, Michael Ball, The Pet Shop Boys, Cliff Richard, Dave McAlmont and Ian Shaw. He has also been the main or sole support act for Michael Jackson, Roy Orbison, Ray Charles, The Beach Boys, Lisa Stansfield, Aswad, Edwin Starr and many more.

Classical vocal experiences include featured roles with Royal Opera House, Glyndebourne, Ensemble Modern of Frankfurt and Matrix Ensemble, plus appearances in televised operas by Mark Anthony Turnage, Orlando Gough, Jenni Roditi and Jocelyn Pook.

Michael has also provided film and TV vocals for Pop Idols, X-Factor, Saturday Live with Ben Elton, The Tube with Jules Holland, Saturday Night Divas, 2006 Honda Choir, Star Wars (episode 1), Scrooge (Kelsey Grammar), Galavant (season 2) and Aladdin (2019).

Recent events include:

- Jan 2019: Vocal Arranger / Musical Director on OUR LADY OF KIBEHO, by Katori Hall, directed by James Dacre, music by Orlando Gough.
- Apr-Sept 2018: Vocal Arranger / Musical Supervisor on SYLVIA, a Zoonation production for The Old Vic.
- **Feb-June 2018:** Musical Director on Branden Jacobs-Jenkins' *An Octoroon* at the National Theatre.
- Apr-Dec 2017: Musical Director and vocal arranger on Inua Ellams' *Barber Shop Chronicles* at the National Theatre, Leeds Playhouse and Australasian tour.
- June-Oct 2016: Composer / musical director on Adam Brace's *They Drink It In The Congo* at the Almeida Theatre.
- Sept 2015-June 2016 / Nov-Dec 2016: Musical director and 1 of 8 performers in a cappella dance piece *May Contain Food* for Protein Dance.
- Apr-June 2015: Vocalist / instrumentalist / deputy MD on The Merchant of Venice at Shakespeare's Globe.
- Jan-Mar 2015: Composer / musical director on Zodwa Nyoni's play *Boi Boi is Dead*, a tripleproduction by West Yorkshire Playhouse, Watford Palace Theatre and Tiata Fahodzi.
- May-July 2014: Co-composer/musical director and performer in *Mr. Burns* at the Almeida Theatre, directed by Robert Icke.
- May-Aug 2013: Gospel Vocalist and MD liaison in James Baldwin's play *The Amen Corner* at the National Theatre, directed by Rufus Norris
- Jan-Mar 2013: MD, arranger and performer for The Young Vic/Royal Court Theatre production of *FEAST*, directed by Rufus Norris
- Aug 2012: Co-composer on *JILTED* for vocal theatre duo FLAM, performed by Melanie Pappenheim and Rebecca Askew, directed and co-devised by Emma Bernard
- June-Aug 2011: Vocal MD and featured cast member in the National Theatre's production of the Ibsen play *Emperor and Galilean*
- May-Aug 2011: Vocal animateur and conductor, working with 220 young people aged 6-13 for the BBC Proms *Horrible Histories* concert
- 2010-2011: Vocal MD on the National Theatre's production of FELA
- Jan-Apr 2009: Vocal MD for Wole Soyinka's *Death and the King's Horseman* at the National Theatre
- January 1st 2009: Co-composer of the *Rocket Symphony* with Orlando Gough for 500 voices and Fireworks for Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture.
- November 2008: Featured vocalist in Scott Walker's *Drifting and Tilting* at the Barbican Theatre, along with Damon Albarn and Jarvis Cocker.
- **BBC PROMS 2006:** Composer of 16-part a cappella vocal piece *Stand*, performed by The Shout.

