

In his first season outside Helsinki, baritone Ville Rusanen earned excellent reviews for his appearances as Guglielmo in David McVicar's production of *Così fan tutte* for Scottish Opera returning later for Figaro in Thomas Allen's production of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.

In 2010 he made his debut with Dutch National Opera in a new opera by Alexander Raskatov - *A Dog's Heart* - based on the novel by Mikhail Bulgakov.

The 2012/13 season included Rusanen's debut at Teatro alla Scala in Simon McBurney's production of *A Dog's Heart*. He also performed with the Sydney Symphony under Vladimir Ashkenazy in *Kullervo* and made his debut with the RTE National Symphony Orchestra in Dublin under Hannu Lintu (also with *Kullervo*).

The 2013/2014 season Rusanen made his Opera debut in France at Opéra National de Lyon.

At home in Finland he is a regular guest at Finnish National Opera where he has sung a wide repertoire including Pelléas in Marco Arturo Marelli's production of *Pelléas et Mélisande*, the title role in Rautavaara's *Aleksis Kivi*, the title role in *Robin Hood*, Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Malatesta in *Don Pasquale*, Silvio in *Pagliacci* and Phantom in *The Phantom of the Opera*.

He made his London debut at the 2007 BBC Proms in a performance of Sibelius' *The Tempest* with the Lahti Symphony Orchestra conducted by Osmo Vänskä. Recently he sang Sibelius' *Kullervo* at the Grant Park Music Festival in Chicago under Hannu Lintu.

First prize winner of the 2004 Lappeenranta Solo Voice Competition, Ville Rusanen began his musical studies as an instrumentalist, playing the double bass at Kuopio Conservatory where he also studied singing under Pertti Rusanen. He moved to the Sibelius Academy to study singing in 1999 where he was taught by Jorma Hynninen, and then later by Päivi Nisula.

In summer 2014 he made his debut at the Savonlinna Opera Festival as Kimmo in Aulis Sallinen's *Kullervo*. He was named Artist of the Year 2014 at the Savonlinna Opera Festival.

In 2017 Rusanen returned to Dutch National Opera in McBurney's production of *A Dog's Heart* and sang the title role in Sallinen's *Kullervo* at the Savonlinna Opera Festival. At the Savonlinna he also performed with Teatro Real Orchestra under Leif Segerstam in Sibelius' *Kullervo*. Rusanen made his Swedish debut with the Gothenburg Symphony under Santtu-Matias Rouvali in *Kullervo*.

In 2018 Rusanen will return to Opéra National de Lyon to sing in Raskatov's world premiere *GerMania*. He will also sing Valentin in *Faust* at the Savonlinna Opera Festival.

