Christopher Ventris

Tenor

Renowned British tenor Christopher Ventris has been strongly associated with the major Heldentenor repertoire across a career that has now spanned over three decades and was universally known as the pre-eminent Siegmund and Parsifal of his generation. While Wagner’s music remains the bedrock of his enduring international success, reinforced by his recent outstanding debut as Loge in *Das Rheingold*, Ventris’ repertoire versatility is demonstrated by acclaimed performances in roles such as Peter Grimes, Tambour’ Major in Berg’s *Wozzeck*, Jimmy Mahoney in Kurt Weill’s *Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny* and Laca in Janacek’s *Jenůfa*.

Highlights of an enviably high-profile career include Ventris’ debut in the role of Prince Andrey Khovansky (*Khovanshchina*) at Wiener Staatsoper under Semyon Bychkov, his first performances at Teatro alla Scala as Max (*Der Freischütz*), many productions as Sergei (*Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*) including in Geneva, Madrid, London and Brussels, and unanimously acclaimed portrayals of Peter Grimes at both Opernhaus Zürich and Deutsche Oper Berlin. One of Ventris’ many productions at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden was Martinů’s *The Greek Passion* in which he sang the role of Manolios, he portrayed the title role of Pfitzner’s *Palestrina* at Munich’s Bayerische Staatsoper and sang Jimmy Mahoney in new productions at Berliner Staatsoper, Opernhaus Zürich and Wiener Staatsoper.

His debut at the Metropolitan Opera was as Steva in Janáček’s *Jenůfa*, recently singing Laca in the same piece in Dmitri Tcherniakov’s production at Opernhaus Zürich, and he returned to New York in the 2019/20 season in his role debut as Tambour’ Major (*Wozzeck*), conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin in William Kentridge’s acclaimed production. *Wozzeck* has since become a regular feature of his seasons with further performances at Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia under James Gaffigan, in concert with Boston Symphony Orchestra and Andris Nelsons in Boston and at Carnegie Hall and at the Verbier Festival under Lahav Shani, broadcast on Medici.tv.

Following his acclaimed Bayreuther Festspiele debut as Parsifal in Stefan Herheim’s new production (Daniele Gatti), Christopher Ventris gave innumerable performances in the role including at Wiener Staatsoper (under both Franz Welser-Möst and Semyon Bychkov), Bayerische Staatsoper (Kent Nagano), Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (Bernard Haitink), Opéra national de Paris (Hartmut Haenchen), San Francisco Opera (Donald Runnicles) and at Opernhaus Zürich (Haitink), the latter portrayal immortalised on DVD. As Siegmund (*Die Walküre*), Ventris appeared at Wiener Staatsoper (Sir Simon Rattle), Bayreuther Festspiele, (Marek Janowski), Semperoper Dresden (Christian Thielemann), Washington National Opera (Philippe Auguin), Dutch National Opera (Marc Albrecht); he reprises the role for Dallas Symphony Orchestra under Fabio Luisi in the current season and features on a live recording from Wiener Staatsoper (Thielemann).

Christopher Ventris sang the title role of Rienzi under Philippe Jordan at Salzburger Festspiele, made his role debut as Tannhäuser under Sir Mark Elder at Opéra national de Paris, appeared as Lohengrin at Grand Théâtre de Genève, Teatro Real Madrid and The Dallas Opera and made an acclaimed debut in *Tristan und Isolde* at Théâtre de la Monnaie under Music Director Alain Altinoglu. In 2023, Ventris further expanded his Wagnerian repertoire in concert performances of *Das Rheingold* with Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra under conductor Yifan Sun when he brought a highly-anticipated Loge to life to unanimous critical acclaim.