Russell Thomas

Tenor

American tenor Russell Thomas is fast-becoming one of the most sought after artists of his generation with roles such as Don Carlo, Manrico (*Il trovatore*), Florestan (*Fidelio*) and Pollione (*Norma*) regularly within his repertoire. This season, Russell sings his first staged performances of Otello at Canadian Opera Company under Johannes Debus, and Deutsche Oper Berlin under Paolo Arrivabeni. He also makes two key debuts: at Bayerische Staatsoper as Manrico under Asher Fisch; and as Roberto Devereux at San Francisco Opera.

Russell’s recent role debuts include as Stiffelio (Oper Frankfurt), Turiddu in *Cavalleria Rusticana* (Deutsche Oper Berlin), and Faust (Michigan Opera), as well as house debuts at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden under Sir Antonio Pappano (Gabriele Adorno in *Simon Boccanegra*), Lyric Opera of Chicago (Pollione), and Canadian Opera Company (in the title role in *Les contes d’Hoffmann*). Further highlights include Cavaradossi in *Tosca* (LA Opera), Don Carlo (Deutsche Oper Berlin), Pollione (San Francisco Opera, Canadian Opera Company), and both Florestan and Manrico (Cincinatti Opera).

An alumnus of the Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Program, Russell most recently returned there as Rodolfo (*La bohème*) and Ismaele (*Nabucco*), the latter of which was broadcast worldwide via The Met’s ‘Live in HD’ series.

Russell has enjoyed a long collaboration with renowned director Peter Sellars, notably for his debut at English National Opera as Lazarus in John Adams’ *The Gospel According to the Other Mary*, a role he created for the world premiere with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and Gustavo Dudamel, and now released on Deutsche Grammophon. Most recently, they reunited for Russell’s debut at the Salzburger Festspiele in the title role in *La clemenza di Tito*, conducted by Teodor Currentzis. Russell reprised the role last season for his debut at Dutch National Opera in Amsterdam, and this season sings the role for LA Opera in Thaddeus Strassberger’s new production under James Conlon.

In addition to his work in the opera house, Russell is in great demand on the concert platform and recent performances include his first appearance as Otello with the Atlanta Symphony and Robert Spano, his first Loge (*Das Rheingold*) with the New York Philharmonic and Alan Gilbert, and Florestan with both the Houston Symphony Orchestra under Andrés Orozco-Estrada and Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Hannu Lintu. Performances this season include Mahler’s *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Dallas Symphony, and his debut at the BBC Proms in Beethoven’s Symphony No.9, both under Donald Runnicles. In Europe, his concert appearances have included Lazarus with Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra under Markus Stenz, the role of Erik in *Der fliegende Holländer* at Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw under Andris Nelsons, and Donizetti’s *Belisario* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sir Mark Elder, in which Russell was described by *The Telegraph* as “nothing short of sensational”; the performance was subsequently recorded and released by Opera Rara. Russell is also developing his recital work and made his Wigmore Hall debut in the Rosenblatt Recital Series.

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