Russell Thomas

Tenor

American tenor Russell Thomas is now one of the most sought-after artists of his generation having established his reputation in key lyric roles such as Don Carlo, Manrico (*Il trovatore*), Don Alvaro (*La forza del destino*) and Pollione (*Norma*).

Significant debuts in recents seasons have included his first performances of *Otello* for the Canadian Opera Company under Johannes Debus, and for the Deutsche Oper, Berlin under Paolo Arrivabeni; and at the Bayerische Staatsoper as Manrico under Asher Fisch; as Roberto Devereux at San Francisco Opera; as Radames in new production at Houston Grand Opera under Patrick Summers; and as Don Alvaro in Frank Castorf’s new production of *La forza del destino* at Deutsche Oper, Berlin which he reprises there this season alongside Verdi’s Don Carlo.

Further notable 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 (*Les contes d’Hoffmann*). Further highlights include Cavaradossi (*Tosca*) for LA 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 making his debut at English National Opera as Lazarus in John Adams’ *The Gospel According to the Other Mary*, a role he created in the world premiere performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel, now released on Deutsche Grammophon. This collaboration continued at the Salzburger Festspiele where he made his debut in the title role in *La clemenza di Tito*, under Teodor Currentzis, returning last season in a new staging of *Idomeneo* with the same production team.

Russell is in great demand on the concert platform and recent performances have included 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. In Europe, concert performances last season included Beethoven Symphony No.9 in Vienna Konzerthaus’ annual New Year series under Gianandrea Noseda and on tour with the Wiener Philharmoniker under Andris Nelsons on tour to Hamburg.

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