Zwakele Tshabalala

Tenor

South African tenor Zwakele Tshabalala is currently studying for his Master of Performance degree at the Royal College of Music, London, where he has been awarded a full scholarship. On the professional stage, he most recently appeared in Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 under Marin Alsop at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Prior to that his performances as Hot Biscuit Slim in English National Opera’s critically acclaimed *Paul Bunyan* at Alexandra Palace highlighted him as a standout soloist and a young talent to watch. In the current season, Zwakele makes his house debut at Theater an der Wien as Sportin’ Life in *Porgy & Bess*. Further ahead he joins the Hallé Orchestra for a Valentine’s concert of Opera Arias & Duets under Eduardo Strausser.

Born in South Africa, Zwakele joined the Drakensberg Boys Choir at a young age and was then a member of the South African Youth Choir in 2009. An invitation to join the South African College of Music followed in 2012, where he studied for a performance diploma in opera under the supervision of Virginia Davids and Khamal Khan. Zwakele made his operatic debut at the opera school, as Giuseppe in *La traviata* in 2013, and in 2016 was the winner of The Schock Foundation Prize for Singing at the University of Cape Town.