Russell Thomas

Tenor

American tenor Russell Thomas is now one of the most sought-after tenors 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*). As 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.

Highlights of the 2021/22 season in Europe include his anticipated return to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as Otello conducted by Daniele Rustioni and the title-role in Stravinsky’s *Oedipus Rex* in concert under Esa-Pekka Salonen in Helsinki. At home in the USA he sings Florestan in San Francisco Opera’s new production of *Fidelio* under the baton of Eun Sun Kim directed by Matthew Ozawa, and Cavaradossi (Tosca) for Lyric Opera, Chicago

This season Russell Thomas became the first Artist in Residence at LA Opera, a new role which will take him to the heart of the company not only as a performer but as a curator of the new *After Hours* recital series and as a mentor to the Russell Thomas Young Artists supporting singers from under represented backgrounds in opera alongside performances of *Aida* under James Conlon.

Significant European debuts in recent seasons have included as Don Alvaro in Frank Castorf’s new production of *La forza del destino* at Deutsche Oper,Berlin; and he gave his first performances of Manrico on stage at the Bayerische Staatsoper under Asher Fisch; and

further notable role debuts include Stiffelio for Oper Frankfurt and Turiddu (*Cavalleria Rusticana)* for the Deutsche Oper, Berlin.

Russell Thomas has enjoyed a long collaboration with renowned director Peter Sellars, notably creating the role of Lazarus in John Adams’ *The Gospel According to the Other Mary* in the world premiere performances with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel, now released on Deutsche Grammophon. This partnership continued at the Salzburger Festspiele where he made his debut in the title role in *La clemenza di Tito*, under Teodor Currentzis, returning in the 2018/19 season in a new staging of *Idomeneo.*

Russell Thomas is in great demand on the concert platform and his notable performances include his first Loge (*Das Rheingold*) with the New York Philharmonic and Alan Gilbert; Beethoven Symphony No.9 in the Vienna Konzerthaus’ annual New Year series under Gianandrea Noseda and on tour to Hamburg with the Wiener Philharmoniker under Andris Nelsons.

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