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, Thomas 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. He returns this season as Don Carlo in David McVicar’s staging and under the baton of Carlo Rizzi.

Further highlights of the current season will include his debut at Opéra national de Paris as Don Alvaro (*La forza del destino*), a return to Lyric Opera Chicago as Ernani and to Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as Calaf (*Turandot*) conducted by Antonio Pappano.

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. Last season he made his anticipated return to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as Otello conducted by Daniele Rustioni while at home in the USA he sang 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.

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.*

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; on tour to Hamburg with the Wiener Philharmoniker under Andris Nelsons and in the title-role of Stravinsky’s *Oedipus Rex* in concert performances under Esa-Pekka Salonen in Helsinki.

Last season, Thomas became the first Artist in Residence at LA Opera, a new role which takes 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, alongside performances of *Aida* (Radames) and this season as Otello, under James Conlon.

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