Russell Thomas

Tenor

American tenor **Russell Thomas** continues to make his name as one of the most commanding dramatic tenors of his generation. With a voice of remarkable power and expressive range, he’s now a defining interpreter of both the **Italian lyric** and **German dramatic** repertoire; and his ability to move seamlessly between these two demanding traditions is a testament to his technical mastery, stylistic versatility, and dramatic intelligence.

The**2025/26 season** follows a **landmark year** in which Thomas added two major roles to his repertoire: **Kaiser** (*Die Frau ohne Schatten)* at the **Metropolitan Opera** under **Yannick Nézet-Séguin**, and the title role in *Tannhäuser* at **Houston Grand Opera** under **Erik Nielsen.** These performances marked a significant expansion into the German Helden repertoire, further solidifying his status as an artitst of rare versatility and dramatic weight.

This season, Thomas makes his **debut as Wagner’s Tristan,** opening the **Finnish National Opera’s concert season** with Act II under **Hannu Lintu** before returning  to some of his most celebrated lyric roles: **Canio** (I *Pagliacci)* at **Lyric Opera of Chicago,** **Don José** (*Carmen*) at **Opéra national de Paris,** and he makes an important role debut as **Werther** for **Canadian Opera Company** under Johannes Debus.  These engagements build on a career that has seen him perform principal roles for **The Royal Opera House, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Staatsoper Hamburg,** and many others.

A graduate of the **Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Program,** Thomas has appeared with the company in roles including **Don Carlo, Rodolfo,** and **Ismaele**, and joined the **Met Orchestra** on their 2023 European tour as **Otello, alongside Renée Fleming, and conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin**. His long-standing relationship with**LA Opera —** where he served as the company’s inaugural **Artist in Residence** — has seen him perform **Otello, Radamès,** and **Calaf,** while also mentoring young artists and curating their *After Hours* recital series.

Other recent highlights include the world premiere of *Fire and Blue Sky* by **Joel Thompson**, a deeply personal commission, and his acclaimed collaboration with **Peter Sellars** and **John Adams** in *The Gospel According to the Other Mary*, now preserved on **Deutsche Grammophon.**

On the concert platform, Thomas has appeared with **Wiener Philharmoniker,** **Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, New York Philharmonic,** and**Frankfurt Radio Symphony**, in repertoire ranging from *Das Lied von der Erde* and *Oedipus Rex* to **Beethoven’s Symphony No.9.**

Rooted in the **Italian lyric tradition**, where he brings vocal elegance, emotional immediacy, and stylistic authenticity, and now firmly established in the **German dramatic canon,** Russell Thomas continues to make fearless artistic choices, shaping a career of profound impact and enduring resonance.