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 is 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.