James Hendry

Conductor

Described by Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung as possessing “something truly special”, James Hendry stands at the forefront of young British conductors.

Recent highlights include Verdi’s *Don Carlo* for the Finnish National Opera and Ballet (where he returns this season for Mark-Anthony Turnage’s *Festen*), Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro* for Royal Swedish Opera, and Puccini’s *Tosca* in a return to Staatsoper Hannover, where he was Erste Kapellmeister over four seasons. The 2024/25 season also saw Hendry conduct a new opera by Elena Kats-Chernin – *Lene fliegt ins Zirkusland* – for Philharmonie Luxembourg, and concerts for Opera Ballet Vlaanderen with a semi-staged production of *Peer Gynt*.

Previous seasons’ engagements include Offenbach’s *Barbe-bleue* for Opéra National de Lyon, and numerous productions at Royal Opera House Covent Garden, where he was a member of the prestigious Jette Parker Young Artists Programme, including *Oreste*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Adriana Lecouvreur*, *Hänsel und Gretel* and *Turandot*. He has also conducted at English National Opera (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Oper Frankfurt (*Don Giovanni*), Luzerner Theater (*Revue des Follies*) and Opera North (*The Marriage of Figaro*). A keen symphonic conductor, he has recently worked with the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchester der Tiroler Festspiele Erl, Southbank Sinfonia, the Orchestra of Opera North, Royal Northern Sinfonia and the Niedersächsisches Jugendsinfonieorchester.

Hendry has been Assistant Director of the Hallé Youth Choir, and a vocal coach and accompanist for the Hallé Choir Academy. He has an ongoing association with the National Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company, for which he has conducted all the main G&S titles including *The Mikado*, *HMS Pinafore* and *The Gondoliers*.

Growing up in Kingston upon Hull, he was one of the first students to be accepted onto the Yorkshire Young Musicians programme, going on to study piano with Helen Krizos at Royal Northern College of Music and later as a répétiteur with Kevin Thraves, earning a British Education Award for outstanding achievements during his studies. Hendry is now an Associate Member of the Royal Northern College of Music.