

PRESS RELEASE

3 July 2018

Stuart Skelton's 2018-19 Season



Highlights include:

- Stuart Skelton releases his first solo album *Shining Knight* on 13 July 2018 on ABC Classics
- Debuts at The Royal Opera, London as Siegmund in Wagner's *Die Walküre*
- Returns to The Metropolitan Opera, New York to perform the title role in Verdi's *Otello* and Siegmund in *Die Walküre*
- In Australia Skelton gives a recital with pianist Richard Peirson at Melbourne Recital Centre, performs and records the title role in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* with the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra and makes a welcome return to Britten's Peter Grimes at Brisbane Festival
- Skelton is reunited with Sir Simon Rattle and the Bayerischen Rundfunks for *Die Walküre* and returns to Baden Baden for Verdi's *Otello* under the baton of Daniele Gatti
- Concert performances in the UK of Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and BBC Symphony Orchestra and reuniting with close friend and frequent collaborator, Edward Gardner for Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* in his debut with the Hallé Orchestra

Stuart Skelton is one of the finest heldentenors on the stage today, critically acclaimed for his outstanding musicianship, tonal beauty and intensely dramatic portrayals. Skelton is continuously in demand on stages around the world to perform some of opera's most challenging roles including, Wagner's Parsifal, Tristan, Lohengrin, Erik and Siegmund; Strauss's Kaiser; Beethoven's Florestan; Saint-Saën's Samson et Dalila; and Britten's Peter Grimes. Skelton's 2018-19 season features numerous performances of Siegmund in Wagner's *Die Walküre* including his long-awaited debut at **The Royal Opera, London** and a return to **The Metropolitan Opera, New York**; Verdi's *Otello* also at **The Met** and in **Baden Baden** under the baton of **Daniel Gatti**; a return to his homeland, Australia, to perform and record the title role in *Tristan und Isolde* with the **Western Australian Symphony Orchestra** and his first solo album release on **ABC Classics**.

Australia

Skelton releases his first solo album, **Shining Knight**, on **13 July** on Australian label **ABC Classics** and will be available globally. The album focuses primarily on works by Wagner but also includes songs by American composers Griffes and Barber and showcases both Skelton's heroic vocalism and musical sensitivity. It was recorded with the **West Australian Symphony Orchestra** under the baton of Principal Conductor **Asher Fisch**. Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* is a collection of five songs set to poems by Mathilde Wesendonck and was written whilst he was working on *Tristan und Isolde*. Other Wagner works featured include *Winterstürme* from *Die Walküre*; *Nur eine Waffe taugt* and *Amfortas! Die Wunde* from *Parsifal*; *Allmacht'ger Vater* from *Rienzi* and *In fernem Land* from *Lohengrin*. Griffes was born the year after Wagner died (1884) and was heavily influenced by the German Romantic tradition before becoming fascinated by the exotic sound of the French Impressionists. His *Three Poems of Fiona MacLeod* were written in 1918 in two versions: one for voice and piano and one for voice and orchestra and the latter is performed on the album. Barber was a prolific song composer and *Sure on this Shining Night* is the third song in the collection entitled *Four Songs* and is considered to be one of the finest in his collection.

Stuart Skelton commented on his first solo album, 'I have had a longstanding relationship, for such a large part of my career, with Wagner and late romanticism, both German and otherwise. I just really, genuinely love it, both as performer and listener. It brings me such joy. I wanted to show a bit of a time line from one of Wagner's earliest works, *Rienzi*, which is very much still in the Grand Opera mode of 19th century France and Italy, through the heights of *The Ring* to his incipient thought processes in developing his new, increasingly tonally ambiguous ideas for *Tristan und Isolde* with the *Wesendonck Lieder* and on to his, in my

opinion, zenith, *Parsifal*. The three settings of Griffes are truly wonderful songs, rarely performed or recorded, and to those for whom these are a new discovery, I fervently hope that you are moved by, and drawn to them in the way that I have been since I first was introduced to them over 20 years ago. Samuel Barber needs no introduction to most, and although his output is unapologetically American in flavour, I ask you to consider and compare his famous *Adagio* to the *Metamorphosen* (1949) of Richard Strauss or the Adagietto of Mahler's *5th Symphony*. It's been an incredible journey for music and the souls that music has carried with it along the way, mine included. I hope beyond hope that you are as moved and subsumed - by the familiar and the new - as we have been.'

Skelton gives a recital with pianist **Richard Peirson** on **3 August** at the **Melbourne Recital Centre** as part of its Great Performers 2018 series. The concert includes Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* which features on the album alongside a selection of less familiar works such as a selection of Icelandic songs; *Bold William Taylor, Willow, Willow* and *Hard-Hearted Barb'ra (h)Ellen* by Grainger; Korngold's *Abschiedslieder*; *Four Poems of Victor Hugo* of Franz Liszt and Turina's *Poema en forma de Canciones*.

Skelton returns to the title role in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* in two concert performances with the **Western Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO)** conducted by **Asher Fisch** on **16 & 19 August** at **Perth Concert Hall**. These concerts form the centrepiece of the *WASO & Wagner* series and the Orchestra's 90th anniversary celebrations in 2018 and will be recorded live for release on ABC Classics. Visit www.roh.org.uk for complete cinema listings.

Skelton headlines at **Brisbane Festival** in the title role of Britten's **Peter Grimes** in two semi-staged performances on **20 & 22 September**, presented in partnership with Opera Queensland, Philip Bacon AM, Queensland Performing Arts Centre and Queensland Symphony Orchestra. *Peter Grimes* is Skelton's signature role and he has been hailed as 'the Grimes of our times'. He first performed the work in 2004 at Oper Frankfurt and has since sung the role nearly 50 times. The performances will be the first to take place in Queensland for 60 years and Skelton is joined by soloists including **Sally Matthews** (Ellen Orford), **Mark Stone** (Captain Balstrode), **Michael Honeyman** (Ned Keene), Jacqueline **Dark** (Mrs Sedley), the **Queensland Symphony Orchestra** and **Opera Queensland Chorus** under the baton of **Rory Macdonald** with staging by director **Daniel Slater**.

UK

Skelton makes a welcome return to the stage in London with his debut at **The Royal Opera** performing the role of Siegmund in Wagner's *Die Walküre*, opening on **26 September**. A revival of **Keith Warner's** production, it was created for The Royal Opera in 2005 and is conducted by **Antonio Pappano**. The cast also includes **Nina Stemme** (Brünnhilde), **Emily Magee** (Sieglinde), **Sarah Connolly** (Fricka) and **John Lundgren** (Wotan). *Die Walküre* will be broadcast live in cinemas on **28 October** as part of The Royal Opera's Live Cinema Season.

Skelton performs twice with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO)** and its **Principal Conductor Vladimir Jurowski** at the **Royal Festival Hall** in the 2018/19 season. On **29 September** he revisits one of his most loved works: Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* and is joined by mezzo soprano **Sarah Connolly**. On **27 January 2019** Skelton returns to lead a stellar cast in a concert performance of Wagner's *Die Walküre*, part of the LPO's Opera in Concert series. Skelton also performs Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the **BBC Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Sakari Oramo** at the **Barbican Hall** on **22 February**. On **11 October** Skelton joins the **Hallé Orchestra and Choir** conducted by **Edward Gardner** for a performance of Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* at Bridgewater Hall. He is joined by soprano **Sara Jakubiak**, mezzo-soprano **Susan Bickley** and bass **Brindley Sherratt**.

USA

In the 2018/19 season Skelton returns to **The Metropolitan Opera, New York** to perform the title role in the second revival of Bartlett Sher's production of *Otello*. Verdi's Shakespearian tragedy is conducted by **Gustavo Dudamel** making his Met debut as well as working with Skelton for the first time. The production opens on **14 January 2019** for seven performances and the cast also includes **Sonya Yoncheva** (Desdemona) and **Željko Lučić** (Iago). Also at The Met, Skelton gives four performances of Wagner's *Die Walküre* conducted by

Philippe Jordan opening on **30 March**. Skelton and soprano **Eva-Maria Westbroek** play the incestuous twins Siegmund and Sieglinde.

Germany and Hungary

On **8 & 10 February** Skelton performs the role of Siegmund in *Die Walküre* with **Symphonieorchester der Bayerischen Rundfunks**, conducted by **Sir Simon Rattle**. Skelton also returns to Baden Baden to sing the title role in *Otello* alongside the **Berliner Philharmoniker** and conductor **Daniele Gatti**. They present four performances of the production on **13, 16 19 and 22 April 2019**.

Skelton concludes the season in Hungary at the Budapest Wagner Days festival in the Béla Bartók National Concert Hall on **Friday 14 June 2019** for a semi-staged performance of *Die Walküre*. **Ádám Fischer** conducts the **Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra** and the cast also includes **Catherine Foster** (Brünnhilde).

www.stuartskelton.com

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Listings:

Wagner's *Die Walküre*

Siegmond
Orchestra and Chorus of The Royal Opera House/Antonio Pappano
Royal Opera House, London
Wednesday 26 September, Thursday 4 October, Thursday 18 October, Sunday 28 October 2018
www.roh.org.uk
+ 44 (0)20 7304 4000

Britten's *Peter Grimes*

Peter Grimes
The Queensland Symphony Orchestra/Rory Macdonald
Brisbane Festival, QPAC Concert Hall
Thursday 20 September, Saturday 22 September 2018
www.qpac.com.au/brisbane-festival/
+61 7 3846 444

Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*

Tenor
London Philharmonic Orchestra/Vladimir Jurowski
Royal Festival Hall, London
Saturday 29 September 2018
www.southbankcentre.co.uk/venues/royal-festival-hall
+ 44 (0)20 3879 9555

Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass*

Tenor
Hallé Orchestra and Choir/Edward Gardner
Bridgewater Hall, Manchester
Thursday 11 October 2018
www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk
+44 (0)161 907 9000

Verdi's *Otello*

Otello
The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra/Gustavo Dudamel
The Metropolitan Opera House, New York
Friday 14, Monday 17, Friday 21, Friday 28 December 2018, Wednesday 2, Saturday 5 & Thursday 10 January 2019
www.metopera.org
+1 212 362 6000

Wagner's *Die Walküre*

Siegmond
London Philharmonic Orchestra/Vladimir Jurowski
Royal Festival Hall, London
Sunday 27 January 2019
www.southbankcentre.co.uk/venues/royal-festival-hall
+ 44 (0)20 3879 9555

Wagner's *Die Walküre*

Siegmond
Symphonieorchester der Bayerischen Rundfunks/Sir Simon Rattle
Herkulesaal, Munich
Friday 8 & Sunday 10 February 2019
www.muenchenmusik.de/konzertsaele/Herkulesaal-19.html
+49 89 290671

Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*

Tenor
BBC Symphony Orchestra/Sakari Oramo
Barbican Hall, London
Friday 22 February 2019
<https://www.barbican.org.uk>
+44 (0)20 7638 8891

Wagner's *Die Walküre*

Siegmond

The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra/Philippe Jordan

The Metropolitan Opera House, New York

Saturday 30 March, Tuesday 30 April, Tuesday 07

May 2019

www.metopera.org

+1 212 362 6000

Verdi's *Otello*

Otello

Berliner Philharmoniker/Daniele Gatti

Festspielhaus Baden-Baden

Saturday 13, Tuesday 16, Friday 19, Monday 22 April

2019

www.festspielhaus.de/en

+49 7221 3013101

Wagner's *Die Walküre*

Siegmond

Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra/Ádám Fischer

Béla Bartók National Concert Hall

Friday 14 June 2019

www.mupa.hu/en/tickets/season-tickets-2018-19

+36 1 555 3000