

PRESS RELEASE

28 August 2018

Iestyn Davies's 2018-19 Season

Highlights include:

- Iestyn Davies performs in Handel's *Agrippina* on the operatic stage for the first time
- Iestyn Davies is Saffron Hall's Artist in Residence for the season
- Iestyn Davies performs in the US premiere of Nico Muhly's *Marnie* at the Metropolitan Opera
- A new programme *England's Orpheus* with lutenist Thomas Dunford
- *Old Bones*, a collaboration with Nico Muhly and Aurora Orchestra at Kings Place
- A return to the BBC Proms for Handel's *Theodora* with Arcangelo and Jonathan Cohen

British countertenor Iestyn Davies, one of the most prominent countertenors on today's classical music scene, has enjoyed a highly successful 2017-18 season, which saw him reprise the singing role of Farinelli in the Broadway run of the play *Farinelli and the King* alongside Mark Rylance, and a critically-acclaimed performance as David in the revival of Handel's *Saul* at Glyndebourne 2018. Other landmarks included winning the Baroque Vocal category at the Gramophone Music Awards 2017 for his JS Bach cantatas disc with Arcangelo and Jonathan Cohen. The shortlist for the forthcoming **Gramophone Music Awards 2018** features three discs on which Davies performs, including Bach *Magnificats* with Arcangelo and Jonathan Cohen, and *Lost is my Quiet*, a duets disc with soprano Carolyn Sampson and pianist Joseph Middleton.

The 2018-19 season sees Davies make welcome returns to the Metropolitan Opera, BBC Proms, Munich's Bayerische Staatsoper and Saffron Hall, where he is Artist-In-Residence for the season, and new collaborations with composer Nico Muhly and lutenist Thomas Dunford.

Nico Muhly's *Marnie* at the Metropolitan Opera

Davies joins the cast of **Nico Muhly's *Marnie*** for its US premiere at the Metropolitan Opera, opening on **19 October 2018**. This new opera, with a libretto by **Nicholas Wright**, is based on the novel by Winston Graham, which was famously adapted for film by Alfred Hitchcock. Davies performs the role of Terry Rutland. On **10 November** the matinee performance will be screened at cinemas worldwide as part of *The Met: Live in HD*. Muhly and Davies are long-time collaborators, having most recently worked together on Muhly's *Sentences*, based on the life of Alan Turing and written by Muhly for Davies.

Ariodante at the Lyric Opera of Chicago

In **March 2019**, Davies sings the role of Polinesso in **Richard Jones's** production of Handel's *Ariodante* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. The production first premiered at the Aix-en-Provence festival in 2014 and sees the opera set in a remote Scottish fishing village, referencing Handel's original Scottish setting. **Harry Bicket** conducts, having last worked with Davies during the 17-18 season on critically-acclaimed performances of Handel's *Rinaldo* with The English Concert at the Barbican and Carnegie Hall.

Agrippina at Munich Opera Festival

Davies reunites with director **Barrie Kosky** for the new production of Handel's *Agrippina* at Bayerische Staatsoper in **July 2019**. Part of the Munich Opera Festival, this production sees Davies making his role debut as Ottone on the operatic stage, having only performed it in concert thus far in his career. The premiere on 23 July 2019 will

also be broadcast live on BR-Klassik. In 2015 and 2018, Davies received plaudits for his performance as David in Kosky's landmark production of *Saul* at Glyndebourne.

Saffron Hall's Artist in Residence

Davies is Saffron Hall's Artist in Residence for 18-19, with four concerts during the season. He opens the residency on **21 November 2018**, where he is joined by regular collaborators, soprano **Carolyn Sampson** and pianist **Joseph Middleton** for a joint song recital including Purcell, Quilter and Schumann, and on **22 December 2018** he returns with **Britten Sinfonia** for Handel's *Messiah* along with **Sophie Bevan, Allan Clayton** and **Roderick Williams**. The residency continues into Saffron Hall's spring season with masterclasses and concerts with **Fretwork** and lutenist **Thomas Dunford**, details of which will be announced this autumn.

UK and International concert highlights

Davies returns to the **BBC Proms** at the Royal Albert Hall on **7 September 2018** for Handel's *Theodora* with **Arcangelo** and **Jonathan Cohen**. Davies sings the role of Didymus, alongside **Louise Alder** as Theodora. Davies, Cohen and Arcangelo enjoyed huge success with their critically-lauded disc of Bach Cantatas in 2017, which won in the Baroque Vocal category at the **Gramophone Music Awards 2017**.

On **23 November 2018**, Iestyn Davies performs in *Old Bones*, a collaboration between Davies, composer **Nico Muhly** and the **Aurora Orchestra** at Kings Place. The programme centres around ancient notions of time, featuring the world premiere of a new arrangement of *Old Bones*, composed by Muhly following the discovery of the remains of Richard III. Also featured are Thomas Adès's *The Lover in Winter* and *The Four Quarters*, Debussy's *Danse Sacrée et Danse profane*, and Muhly's arrangement of Dowland's *Time Stands Still*.

Davies performs in Handel's *Messiah* throughout December 2018, beginning at Boston's Symphony Hall on **30 November** and **1 - 2 December** with the **Orchestra and Chorus of the Handel and Haydn Society, Lucy Crowe, James Gilchrist** and **Phillipe Sly**, conducted by **Bernard Labadie**. On **5 December 2018**, Davies performs with the **BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales** at St David's Hall Cardiff with **Katherine Watson, Gwilym Bowen** and **Neal Davies**, conducted by **Stephen Layton**. Davies then undertakes a short tour with the **Britten Sinfonia and Voices** along with **Sophie Bevan, Allan Clayton** and **Roderick Williams**, visiting Amsterdam's Concertgebouw (**17 December**), the Barbican (**19 December**) and Saffron Hall (**22 Dec**), where he is Artist in Residence for the season. Davies also performs in an Easter Saturday performance of the *Messiah* on **20 April 2019** at Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall with the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Chorus**, along with **Miah Persson, Thomas Walker** and **Ashley Riches**.

On **4 January 2019** at Wigmore Hall, Davies performs with **The King's Consort** conducted by **Robert King**, in a programme of countertenor arias and duets (with **James Hall**) by Purcell and Blow. The programme is also performed at the Palace of Versailles on **19 January**, and Davies will also join The King's Consort in the recording studio to record the programme for future release.

On **9 March 2019** at Chicago's Old St. Patrick's Church, Davies performs a recital programme entitled *From Fear to Faith* with the **Haymarket Opera Orchestra**, featuring works by Bach, Muffat and Telemann. The following month, Davies returns to Amsterdam's Concertgebouw for JS Bach's *St John Passion* on **12** and **14 April 2019** with the **Concertgebouw Orchestra, Netherlands Chamber Choir** and soloists, conducted by **William Christie**.

Davies reunites with **Bernard Labadie** for performances of JS Bach's *B Minor Mass* with Quebec chamber orchestra **Les Violins Du Roy and La Chapelle de Québec**, performing in Quebec City at the Palais Montcalm - Maison de la Musique on **4 and 5 May 2019**, New York's Carnegie Hall on **7 May 2019**, and the Maison Symphonique de *Montréal* on **11 May 2019**.

Davies and lutenist **Thomas Dunford** are frequent collaborators, and in 2019 they present a new programme entitled *England's Orpheus*, which features sacred and secular songs by Purcell, Handel arias and cantatas, Dowland songs and pieces for lute. The duo perform at The Kennedy Center in Washington DC on **14 May 2019**, New York's Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall on **16 May 2019**, and San Francisco's First Congregational Church in Berkeley on **19 May 2019**.

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Further details on biography and discography at www.iestyndavies.com

Listings

Handel *Theodora*

Didymus

BBC Proms

Royal Albert Hall

7 September 2018

Nico Muhly *Marnie* (US Premiere)

Terry Rutland

Metropolitan Opera

19, 22, 27, 31 October 2018

3, 7, 10 November 2018

Iestyn Davies, Carolyn Sampson &

Joseph Middleton

Saffron Hall

21 November 2018

***Old Bones* (w/Aurora Orchestra)**

Kings Place

23 November 2018

Handel *Messiah* (w/ H&H Society/Labadie)

Boston Symphony Hall

30 November 2018

1 & 2 December 2018

Handel *Messiah* (w/ BBC NOW)

St David's Hall Cardiff

6 December 2018

Handel *Messiah* (w/ Britten Sinfonia)

Concertgebouw Amsterdam

17 December 2018

Barbican Hall, 19 December 2018

Saffron Hall, 22 December 2018

Purcell celebration (w/ The King's Consort)

Wigmore Hall

4 January 2019

Château de Versailles Spectacles

19 January 2019

Handel *Ariodante*

Polinesso

Lyric Opera House, Chicago

2, 5, 8, 11, 14 & 17 March 2019

***From Fear to Faith* (recital w/ Haymarket Opera Orchestra)**

Old St. Patrick's Church, Chicago

9 March 2019

JS Bach *St John Passion*

Concertgebouw Amsterdam

12 & 14 April 2019

Handel *Messiah* (w/ RSNO)

Glasgow Concert Hall

20 April 2019

JS Bach *B Minor Mass* (w/ Les Violins Du Roy and La Chapelle de Québec / Labadie)

Palais Montcalm - Maison de la Musique, Quebec City

4 & 5 May 2019

Carnegie Hall, New York, 7 May 2019

Maison Symphonique de *Montréal*, 11 May 2019

***England's Orpheus* (w/Thomas Dunford)**

The Kennedy Center, Washington DC

14 May 2019

Zankel Hall, New York

16 May 2019

First Congregational Church, San Francisco

19 May 2019

Handel *Agrippina*

Ottone

Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich

23, 26, 28, 30 July 2019