

Stuart Skelton hosts an evening of operatic entertainment at Cadogan Hall in support of ENO's pioneering Harewood Artist programme

On 10 October, internationally acclaimed heldentenor Stuart Skelton will host an evening of operatic entertainment in celebration of English National Opera at Cadogan Hall. Joining him will be mezzo soprano Pamela Helen Stephen along with former ENO Young Singers Iain Paterson, Leigh Melrose and Sarah Tynan. The evening will raise funds for ENO's pioneering talent development programmes, including the prestigious ENO Harewood Artists (formerly known as ENO Young Singers).

Speaking about the singers involved in the gala performance, Skelton says, "They're some of my favourite singers on the planet, and above all, they're all singers who, like me, owe a debt of gratitude to the support offered by ENO. Iain Paterson, Leigh Melrose and Sarah Tynan were all Young Singers with the company and continue to sing here regularly, and both Pamela Helen Stephen and I feel like honorary members of that same family."

The first half of the evening's programme will include Stuart Skelton singing 'The Prize Song' from Wagner's *The Mastersingers of Nuremberg*. Fellow Wagnerian Iain Paterson will sing a selection of Wotan's arias from *The Valkyrie*, fresh from his success at BBC Proms in the same role. Pamela Helen Stephen will sing arias from Handel's *Julius Caesar* and Stuart Skelton will join her in 'It's You, It's Me' from Bizet's *Carmen*. The second half of the programme will feature lighter repertoire and excerpts from musical theatre.

Since **Stuart Skelton's** unforgettable performance as *Peter Grimes* at ENO, a role that he is reviving in January 2014, Skelton has been hailed as one of the finest heldentenors of his generation. Appearances at the world's major opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, New York, Paris Opera and Bavarian State Opera, have cemented his reputation for outstanding musicianship and intense, dramatic portrayals.

Pamela Helen Stephen is well known to ENO audiences, having most recently performed as Suzuki in Anthony Minghella's timeless production of *Madam Butterfly* and as Lillian Disney in the UK premiere Philip Glass's opera *Perfect American*.

Former ENO Young Singers **Leigh Melrose**, **Iain Paterson** and **Sarah Tynan** are similarly well known to ENO audiences. Leigh Melrose last performed at ENO in Carrie Cracknell's critically-acclaimed 2013 production of *Wozzeck*. Iain Paterson will be joining Stuart Skelton in ENO's revival of *Peter Grimes*, playing the role of Balstrode and Sarah Tynan is currently playing the role of Marzelline in Calixto Bieito's production of *Fidelio*.

ENO Harewood Artists, the first initiative of its kind in the UK, enables exceptionally talented UK-trained singers to perform with a major opera company while receiving specialist coaching, support and guidance. Currently, ENO supports thirteen Harewood Artists including Ben Johnson (winner of Audience Prize at BBC Cardiff Singer of the World), Duncan Rock (winner of 2012 Chilcott Award) and Katherine Broderick (winner of 2008 Kathleen Ferrier Award).

For further press information/press tickets please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

English National Opera (ENO) is the UK's leading producer of world-class opera, sung in English. Working with the very best talent from across the arts and creative industries, we produce highly theatrical productions that push the boundaries of what opera can be. We champion British and British-trained talent by providing development programmes for singers, composers and conductors, placing them at the heart of our performances. Our productions are seen by audiences across Europe, North America and Australia thanks to partnerships with the world's most celebrated opera houses. Through all our activities we aim to make our work enjoyable, accessible and affordable for as many people as possible.

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Stuart Skelton is acknowledged as one of the finest heldentenors of his generation, being critically acclaimed for his outstanding musicianship, tonal beauty and intensely dramatic portrayals. In the 2013-14 season Skelton takes the title role in the opera with which he has become synonymous - Britten's *Peter Grimes* - in concert performances with the LPO and San Francisco Symphony, as well as a revival of ENO's acclaimed 2009 production. New opera productions include Calixto Bieito's *Fidelio* at ENO as well as Opera Australia's *Ring Cycle* in which Skelton performs the role of Siegmund. Concert performances include his debut with the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome and the UK as well as returns to the Berlin Philharmonic and BBC Symphony Orchestra. Stuart Skelton has appeared in many of the world's most celebrated opera houses including the Metropolitan Opera, Seattle Opera, San Francisco Opera, English National Opera, Paris Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Hamburg State Opera, Berlin State Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin and the Vienna State Opera. Stuart's roles include the title roles in *Lohengrin*, *Rienzi*, *Parsifal*, *Dmitrij* and *Peter Grimes* as well as Florestan in *Fidelio*, Laca in *Jenufa*, Erik in *Der Fliegende Holländer*, The Kaiser in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, Bacchus in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, The Prince in *Rusalka*, Max in *Der Freischütz* and Siegmund in *Der Ring des Nibelungen*. He continues to be in demand on concert stages around the world, in repertoire that includes Mahler's *Das Klagende Lied* and *Das Lied von der Erde*, Beethoven's 9th Symphony and *Missa Solemnis*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Dvořak's *Requiem*, Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* and the *Psalmus Hungaricus* of Kodály. Stuart has appeared with such orchestras as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, The Cleveland Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Montreal Symphony, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Munich Radio Symphony Orchestras, London Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Orchestras of Scotland and Wales and the Symphony Orchestras of Sydney, Melbourne, Western Australia and Tasmania. He has also appeared at the Edinburgh and Lucerne Festivals, and in the BBC Proms.

Booking information:

An Evening with Stuart Skelton and Friends

Thursday 10 October 2013, 7.30pm

Cadogan Hall, SW1X 9DQ

www.cadoganhall.com / 020 7730 4500 (Cadogan Hall box office)

Tickets cost £30 (gallery) and £50 (stalls) and include a donation to ENO.

Current ENO Harewood Artists:

Mary Bevan

Katherine Broderick

Eleanor Dennis

Anthony Gregory

Ben Johnson

Rhian Lois

Barnaby Rea

Duncan Rock

Nicky Spence

Julia Sporsén

Kate Valentine

George von Bergen

Catherine Young

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