

## PRESS RELEASE

7 May 2013

### Stuart Skelton announces his 2013-14 season

#### Highlights include:

- A return to English National Opera in a new production of *Fidelio* and revival of the acclaimed 2009 production of *Peter Grimes*
- Stuart Skelton performs the role of Siegmund in Opera Australia's *Die Walküre* as part of its new Ring Cycle
- Skelton returns to the Berlin Philharmonic for Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* with Sir Simon Rattle
- Skelton joins the Accademia di Santa Cecilia on its first UK tour with Sir Antonio Pappano
- Concert Performances of the title role of Peter Grimes with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and San Francisco Symphony
- A return to the BBC Symphony Orchestra for Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* as part of Sir Andrew Davis' 70th birthday celebrations

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.

Skelton's season opens in September with two performances of Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* with **Sir Simon Rattle** and the **Berlin Philharmonic**. Skelton made his acclaimed debut with the orchestra in December 2011 and returns there on 7 & 8 September 2013. Other soloists include **Luba Orgonášová**, **Mihoko Fujimura** and **Christian Gerhaher** and the programme also includes Lutoslawski's *Symphony No 2* and Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*.

Opening on **25 September**, Skelton takes the role of Florestan for selected performances in a new production of Beethoven's *Fidelio* directed by Calixto Bieito. Conducted by ENO's Music Director **Edward Gardner** the cast also includes soprano **Emma Bell** (Leonore), **Philip Horst** (Don Pizarro), **James Creswell** (Rocco), **Sarah Tynan** (Marzelline), **Adrian Dwyer** (Jaquino) and **Roland Wood** (Don Fernando). *Fidelio* is a co-production with Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich and is the first of two operas that Skelton performs for ENO at the London Coliseum in 2013-14.

On **26 September** at Symphony Hall, Birmingham and **28 September** at the Royal Festival Hall, London, Stuart Skelton makes his debut with the **London Philharmonic Orchestra** and **Vladimir Jurowski** in concert performances of Britten's *Peter Grimes*, as part of the composer's centenary celebrations. Skelton is joined by a cast including **Pamela Armstrong** as Ellen Orford, **Alan Opie** as Captain Balstrode and **Pamela Helen Stephen** as Auntie.

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Skelton returns to Australia in November 2013 as Siegmund in *Die Walküre* for Opera Australia's highly anticipated production of Wagner's *Ring Cycle*. Directed by **Neil Armfield** and conducted by Richard Mills, Skelton joins a cast that also includes **Susan Bullock** as Brünnhilde and **Miriam Gordon-Stewart** as Sieglinde. Previously for OA, Skelton has played Peter Grimes in *Peter Grimes*, Don Jose in *Carmen* and Mitch in *Streetcar Named Desire*.

In January 2014, ENO revives its acclaimed production of *Peter Grimes*, for which Skelton was nominated for an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera. The Guardian wrote, 'This superb company achievement has Stuart Skelton's towering performance at its heart, perfectly combining human frailties with an edge of brutality and moments of touching poetic insight – probably the most complete Grimes in London since Jon Vickers at Covent Garden in the late 1970s. It is the finest possible tribute to Skelton that he should invite such comparisons in what is a very special ENO show indeed.' Director **David Alden** and conductor **Edward Gardner** are reunited with Skelton, and the production also features two major new singers: **Iain Paterson** sings Balstrode following his acclaimed performance in the role at the BBC Proms 2012 and **Elza van den Heever** makes her London operatic debut singing Ellen Orford. Much of the original cast returns including **Rebecca de Pont Davies, Matthew Best, Leigh Melrose** and **Dame Felicity Palmer**.

Stuart Skelton returns to the **BBC Symphony Orchestra** on **6 April 2014** for a performance of Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* at the Barbican which forms part of **Sir Andrew Davis'** 70th birthday celebrations. They are joined by mezzo-soprano **Sarah Connolly** and baritone **Brindley Sherratt** and this performance will also be recorded for later release on Chandos Records.

Skelton joins the **Accademia di Santa Cecilia** and **Sir Antonio Pappano** for the orchestra's debut in the UK at the Royal Festival Hall on 18 May performing excerpts from *Fidelio* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*.

Closing the season in June 2014, Skelton gives three performances of Britten's *Peter Grimes*, with the **San Francisco Symphony** and **Michael Tilson Thomas**. Skelton last performed with the orchestra in *Das Lied von der Erde* with Tilson Thomas in 2007 and makes a welcome return on 26 June 2014.

Other performances in the 2013/14 season include a concert with the Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa and Günter Neuhold for the Wagner bicentenary celebrations on 4 October singing excerpts from *Lohengrin* and *Die Walküre*, and the world premiere of the expanded version of Mark Grey's *Fire Angels*, conducted by **Roberto Spano**, and also featuring soprano **Jessica Rivera** on 20 & 21 March 2014 with the **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**. It was originally written for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11.

### Notes to Editors

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*

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*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.

### Press Quotes

'Stuart Skelton's security guard Erik is ringingly muscular in tone: don't expect to hear the role better sung.' Sunday Telegraph

'Stuart Skelton's Siegmund, however, is something special: a clear, dark genuinely lyric heldentenor full of emotional vulnerability – perhaps the finest singer I've heard in this role since Ben Heppner or even James King...the voice is gorgeous.' Stereophile

'In the title role Stuart Skelton was quite simply a revelation ... capable of much soft singing, phrases sensitively and is a consummate actor ... Suffice it to say his is the most complete portrayal of the role I have ever seen.' Whatsonstage

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### Listings

#### **Janáček *Glagolitic Mass***

Tenor soloist

Berlin Philharmonic/Sir Simon Rattle

Berliner Philharmonie

7, 8 September 2013

#### **Beethoven *Fidelio***

Florestan

English National Opera/Edward Gardner

London Coliseum

25, 27, 30 September 2013 and 6, 12, 17 October 2013

#### **Britten *Peter Grimes***

Peter Grimes

London Philharmonic Orchestra/Vladimir Jurowski

Royal Festival Hall

26 & 28 September 2013

#### **Wagner *Excerpts***

Soloist

Bilbao Orkestra Sinfonikoa/Neuhold

Euskalduna Concert Hall

4 October 2013

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### **Wagner *Die Walküre***

Siegmond  
Opera Australia/Richard Mills  
State Theatre, Arts Centre Melbourne  
20, 29 November 2013 and 9 December 2013

### **Britten *Peter Grimes***

Peter Grimes  
English National Opera/Edward Gardner  
London Coliseum  
29 January 2014 and 1, 6, 8, 14, 21, 23, 27 February 2014

### **Mark Grey *Fire Angels* (world premiere)**

Tenor soloist  
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra/Robert Spano  
Atlanta Symphony Hall  
20, 21 March 2014

### **Elgar *Dream of Gerontius***

Gerontius  
BBC Symphony Orchestra/Sir Andrew Davis  
Barbican Hall  
6 April 2014

### **Beethoven & Dallapiccola excerpts including *Il Prigioniero*, *Fidelio* and *Symphony No 9***

Tenor soloist  
Accademia di Santa Cecilia/Sir Antonio Pappano  
Royal Festival Hall  
18 May 2014

### **Britten *Peter Grimes***

Peter Grimes  
San Francisco Symphony/Michael Tilson Thomas  
Louise M Davies Symphony Hall  
26, 27, 29 June 2014

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