

PRESS RELEASE

15 May 2014

Stuart Skelton announces his 2014-15 season

Highlights include:

- A return to the BBC Proms in 2014 to perform Rachmaninoff's *The Bells*
- Stuart Skelton makes his role debut in *Otello* with English National Opera in September 2014
- A debut at La Scala in a performance of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, conducted by Philippe Jordan
- Skelton returns to Oviedo Opera to perform the role of Samson in *Samson and Delilah*
- Skelton performs Sigmund in *Die Walküre* at the Bayerische Staatsoper
- Two performances of the *Glagolitic Mass* on his debut with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra

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. He is the 2014 winner of Male Singer of the Year at the International Opera Awards. On 18 August 2014 Skelton returns to the BBC Proms for a performance of Rachmaninoff's *The Bells* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Crouch End Festival Chorus, conducted by Edward Gardner.

In the 2014-15 season Skelton makes his role debut in *Otello* at English National Opera and debuts at La Scala, Milan and with the Bergen Philharmonic. Opera performances include a return to Opera Oviedo for *Samson et Dalila* and *Die Walküre* at the Bayerische Staatsoper as well as a concert performance of *Samson and Delilah* with Atlanta Symphony. Concert performances also include a return to the Hamburg Philharmonic and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra for Beethoven's *Symphony No 9* and *Das Lied von Erde* with Philharmonic Zurich.

On 13 September 2014 Stuart Skelton returns to ENO following his recent acclaimed performances as Peter Grimes and Florestan in the 2013-14 season, making his debut in the title role of Verdi's *Otello*. For ten performances Skelton once again reunites with Music Director Edward Gardner and Director David Alden, the team behind ENO's acclaimed *Peter Grimes*. The cast also includes Leah Crocetto as Desdemona, Brian Mulligan as Iago, Allan Clayton as Cassio and Pamela Helen Stephen as Emilia. *Otello* is a co-production with The Royal Swedish Opera and Teatro Real, Madrid and will be broadcast live as part of ENO Screen on 14 October.

In November 2014, Skelton appears as the tenor soloist in Beethoven's *Symphony No 9* with the Hamburg Philharmonic, conducted by Simone Young (9 November) and with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra for three performances on 13, 14 & 16 November in celebration of conductor Donald Runnicles' 60th birthday. He returns to the Philharmonia Zurich on 14 December for a concert performance of Mahler's *Das Lied von Erde* conducted by Cornelius Meister.

On 20 & 21 December, Skelton makes his debut at La Scala with a performance of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, conducted by Philippe Jordan. Skelton previously worked with Jordan in 2013 in *Die Walküre* at Opéra National de Paris.

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In January 2015 Stuart Skelton returns to Opera Oviedo for 4 performances as Samson in *Samson and Delilah*, conducted by Maximiano Valdés. Skelton previously appeared in ENO's production of *Peter Grimes* in Oviedo in 2012.

The Bayerische Staatsoper welcomes Skelton back in February 2015 for 4 performances as Siegmund in Wagner's *Die Walküre* conducted by Kirill Petrenko and directed by Andreas Kriegenburg. The cast also includes Anja Kampe as Sieglinde, Evelyn Herlitzius as Brünnhilde and Thomas J. Mayer as Wotan.

Skelton makes his debut with the Bergen Philharmonic on 26 & 27 March 2015 with Edward Gardner, who will join the orchestra as Chief Conductor in October 2015, with 2 performances of Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* in Grieghallen.

On 3 April Skelton performs the part of St John in Elgar's *The Kingdom* with the Radio Philharmonic Orchestra in the Netherlands conducted by Edward Gardner. The cast also includes Edith Haller, Elizabeth DeShong and Christopher Maltman.

In June 2015 Skelton returns to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra for the orchestra's final concert of the season, with two concert performances of *Samson et Dalila*, conducted by Robert Spano on 4 & 6 June. Skelton is joined by Stephanie Blythe as Dalila.

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 Solemnis*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Dvořák'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 performance in the title role [of *Peter Grimes*] seems to be to be the best around today. Skelton was superb when he sang Grimes in David Alden's exceptional ENO production four years ago, but now...there's an extra dimension, and the vocal heft is complimented by a touching delicacy...Every facet now is exceptional' The Guardian, 2013

'Stuart Skelton has surely never been bettered as the hulking Grimes. He totally inhabits the role. His is a performance to treasure' The Mail on Sunday, 2014

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'Skelton's monumental performance [as Siegmund] combined glorious warmth and colour with elemental expressive energy that taps something deeply human and intuitive' Sydney Morning Herald, 2013

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Listings

Verdi *Otello**

Otello

English National Opera/Edward Gardner

London Coliseum

13, 16, 19, 25, 27 September and 4, 9, 11, 14, 17 October 2014

*co-production with The Royal Swedish Opera and Teatro Real Madrid

Beethoven *Symphony No.9*

Tenor

Hamburg Philharmonic/Simone Young

Laeiszhalle, Philharmoniker Hamburg

9 November 2014

Beethoven *Symphony No.9*

Tenor

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra/Donald Runnicles

City Halls Glasgow, Music Hall Aberdeen and Usher Hall Edinburgh

13, 14 & 16 November 2014

Mahler *Das Lied von Erde*

Tenor

Philharmonia Zürich/Cornelius Meister

Opernhaus Zürich

14 December 2014

Beethoven *Missa Solemnis*

Tenor

Bergen Philharmonic/Sir Antonio Pappano

La Scala

20 & 21 December 2014

Saint-Saëns *Samson & Dalila*

Samson

Ópera de Oviedo/ Maximiano Valdés

Teatro Campoamor

28, 31 January and 3, 6 February 2015

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Wagner *Die Walküre*

Siegmond
Bayerische Staatsoper /Kirill Petrenko
Nationaltheater
28 February and 6, 14, 23 March 2015

Janáček *Glagolitic Mass*

Tenor
Bergen Philharmonic/Edward Gardner
Grieghallen
26 & 27 March 2015

Elgar *The Kingdom op.51 (oratorium)*

St John
Radio Philharmonic Orchestra/Edward Gardner
TivoliVredenburg Utrecht
3 April 2015

Saint-Saëns *Samson & Dalila*

Samson
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra/Robert Spano
Atlanta Symphony Hall
4 & 6 June 2015