

PRESS RELEASE

8 April 2014

Stuart Skelton announced as the winner of Best Male Singer at the International Opera Awards 2014

We are delighted to announce that heldentenor **Stuart Skelton** has been announced as the winner of **Male Singer of the Year at the International Opera Awards**, hosted at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane on Monday 7 April.

The jury for the Awards was made up of chief music critic for the *Sunday Times* and regular *Opera* contributor **Hugh Canning**; **George Loomis** who covers opera and classical music for the *International Herald Tribune*, *MusicalAmerica.com*, *the Financial Times* and *Opera* magazine and chief classical music critic for *The Observer*, **Fiona Maddocks**. Jury members also included **Sir Peter Jonas**, the former Intendant of Bavarian State Opera; **Elaine Padmore**, Director of Opera at Covent Garden until 2011 and **Nicholas Payne**, Director of Opera Europa.

On winning the award Stuart Skelton commented:

"I'm absolutely thrilled and more than a little gobsmacked by this award. It probably won't sink in for a day or two yet! I'm so grateful to the awards committee for this incredible vote of confidence and I shall do my very best to live up to it."

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. His repertoire encompasses many of opera's most challenging roles from Wagner's Parsifal, Lohengrin, Erik and Siegmund, to Strauss' Kaiser, Beethoven's Florestan, Saint-Saëns' Samson, Dvořák's Dimitrij and Britten's Peter Grimes. Skelton has twice been honoured with the Sir Robert Helpmann Award, for his performance of Siegmund in the State Opera of South Australia's 2005 production of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, and in 2010 for Best Male Performer in a Lead Role for his portrayal of Peter Grimes. He received a 2010 Green Room Award for *A Streetcar Named Desire* and was nominated for an Olivier Award in Outstanding Achievement in Opera for his performances as Peter Grimes with English National Opera.

Future engagements include performances with the **Accademia di Santa Cecilia** and **Sir Antonio Pappano** at the Royal Festival Hall on 18 May, performing excerpts from *Fidelio* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* and the title role for which he is renowned in Britten's *Peter Grimes*, with the **San Francisco Symphony** and **Michael Tilson Thomas** in June 2014. Plans for the 2014/15 season will be announced soon.

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

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in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, Herman in *Queen of Spades*, 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

'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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