

PRESS RELEASE

6 July 2015

Heldentenor Stuart Skelton to sing the role of Tristan for the first time in the 2015/16 season

Highlights include:

- Stuart Skelton performs the title role in *Tristan und Isolde* for the first time in a new co-production with the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Teatr Wielki-Polish National Opera and the Metropolitan Opera conducted by Sir Simon Rattle
- Concert performances of *Tristan und Isolde* with Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in Berlin
- New production of *Tristan and Isolde* at English National Opera conducted by Edward Gardner, directed by Daniel Kramer and designed by artist Anish Kapoor
- Skelton sings Siegmund in *Die Walküre* in a new production at Ópera de Oviedo
- Concert performances of Beethoven's Symphony No 9 & *Missa Solemnis* and Saint-Saëns' *Samson et Dalila*
- Continues collaborations with conductors Edward Gardner, David Robertson and Sir Antonio Pappano

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 was the 2014 winner of **Male Singer of the Year at the International Opera Awards**. Chandos Records' recording of *The Dream of Gerontius* with Skelton in the title role received wide praise including the **Choral Award** at the **BBC Music Magazine Awards** in April 2015. In 2015-16 **Skelton** makes his role debut in the title role of Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* in two new productions and concert performances forming the focus of his season.

Tristan and Isolde

On **19 March 2016** **Stuart Skelton** makes his debut in the title role of *Tristan und Isolde* with four performances at the **Festspielhaus Baden-Baden**. The tenor leads a stellar cast including **Eva-Maria Westbroek** as Isolde and **Sarah Connolly** as Brangäne. They are joined by the **Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra**, **Vienna Philharmonic Choir** and conducted by **Sir Simon Rattle**. A new co-production between the **Festspielhaus Baden-Baden**, **The Metropolitan Opera, New York** and the **Teatr Wielki-Polis National Theatre**, it is directed by **Mariusz Treliński**. The production will open The Metropolitan Opera's 2016/17 season in September 2016 where Stuart Skelton is joined by the acclaimed soprano **Nina Stemme** as Isolde. On **31 March** and **3 April** the Baden Baden cast give two concert performances under the baton of **Sir Simon Rattle** with the **Berlin Philharmonic** at the **Berlin Philharmonie**.

Skelton returns to **English National Opera** and the **London Coliseum** where he is reunited with outgoing Music Director **Edward Gardner**, with whom he collaborates regularly, for a new production of *Tristan and Isolde*. It is directed by opera, dance and theatre director **Daniel**

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Kramer with design by leading British sculptor **Anish Kapoor**. American soprano **Heidi Melton** sings the role of Isolde from **9 June 2016** for eight performances.

Stuart Skelton commented, 'Despite the inevitability of my encountering Tristan, you never really feel like you are ready when the opportunity comes, but the chance to tackle Everest when it arises shouldn't be passed up, particularly when it is with Sir Simon Rattle and Edward Gardner at the helm.'

Other Wagner Roles

The season begins on **10 September** singing the role of Siegmund in a new production of *Die Walküre* at **Ópera de Oviedo** in Spain. This is a role with which Skelton has had a long association. He won the **Sir Robert Helpmann Award** for this role with the **State Opera of South Australia's** 2005 production of *The Ring Cycle*. The cast also includes **Liang Li** as Hunding and **Tómas Tómasson** in the role of Wotan. They are joined by the **Asturias Symphony Orchestra** and conductor **Guillermo García Calvo** for four performances on **10, 13, 16, 19 September**.

The **Hong Kong Philharmonic** and its Music Director **Jaap van Zweden** continue their Wagner journey with two concert performances of *Die Walküre* on **21 & 23 January** at the **Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall**. **Stuart Skelton** is Siegmund and is joined by **Matthias Goerne** (Wotan), **Michelle DeYoung** (Fricka), **Petra Lang** as Brunnhilde and **Mikhail Petrenko** (Hunding).

Further Highlights

Skelton continues to be in demand on concert stages around the world. On **3, 5 & 6 October 2015** he reunites with conductor **Antonio Pappano** and the **Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia** for performances of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. He returns to his native Australia for three performances of one of the greatest choral works written: Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*. Joining him is conductor **David Robertson**, with whom he has worked many times, and the **Sydney Symphony Orchestra** at the City's famous Opera House. **Skelton** gives two concert performances on **27 & 30 October 2015** of *Saint-Saëns' Samson et Dalila* at the **Opéra National de Bordeaux** with their orchestra and chorus conducted by **Paul Daniel**. On **10 & 11 December** he joins the **Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra** and its new Music Director **Edward Gardner** for two performances of Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder* singing the role of Waldemar.

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Listings

Wagner: Die Walküre

Siegmund

Asturias Symphony Orchestra/Guillermo García Calvo

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Ópera de Oviedo
10, 13, 16, 19 September 2015

Beethoven: Symphony No.9

Tenor
Orchestra and Chorus of the National Academy of Santa Cecilia/Antonio Pappano
Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia
3, 5, 6 October 2015

Beethoven: Missa Solemnis

Tenor
Sydney Symphony Orchestra/David Robertson
Sydney Opera House
14, 16, 17 October 2015

Saint-Saëns: Samson et Dalila

Samson (Concert Performance)
Bordeaux Aquitaine National Orchestra/Chorus of the Opéra National de Bordeaux/Paul Daniel
Opéra National de Bordeaux
27, 30 October 2015

Schoenberg: Gurrelieder

Waldemar
Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra/Edward Gardner
Grieghallen
10, 11 December 2015

Wagner: Die Walküre

Siegmund
Hong Kong Philharmonic/Jaap van Zweden
Hong Kong Cultural Centre Concert Hall
21, 23 January 2016

Wagner: Tristan and Isolde

Tristan
Berlin Philharmonic/Vienna Philharmonic Choir/Sir Simon Rattle
Baden-Baden Festival
19, 22, 25, 28 March 2016

Wagner: Tristan and Isolde

Tristan (Concert Performance)
Berlin Philharmonic/Sir Simon Rattle
Berlin Philharmonie
31 March, 3 April 2015

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Wagner: Tristan and Isolde

Tristan

English National Opera/Edward Gardner

London Coliseum

9 June-9 July 2015