

PRESS RELEASE

23 June 2016



Stuart Skelton's 2016-17 Season

Highlights include:

- **Stuart Skelton performs the title role in *Tristan und Isolde* at The Metropolitan Opera, in a co-production with New York, the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Teatr Wielki-Polish National Opera and National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing conducted by Sir Simon Rattle**
- **Sings the title role in a new production of *Lohengrin* at Opéra National de Paris**
- **Performs as Laca Klemen in Janáček's *Jenůfa* at the Bayerische Staatsoper**
- **Concert performances of Wagner in Hobart, Perth, Melbourne and Bilbao**
- **Other international highlights include concerts of Mahler repertoire in Cincinnati and *Peter Grimes* in Bergen**

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**. Skelton made his role debut as Tristan in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* in March 2016 with Sir Simon Rattle at the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden and Berlin Philharmoniker and he opens the 2016-17 season in the same production at **The Metropolitan Opera, New York**. This summer Skelton performs the tenor role in Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* at the **BBC Proms on Tuesday 19 July**. He joins soprano **Camilla Nylund**, mezzo soprano **Birgit Remmert** and bass **Hanno Müller-Brachmann** at the Royal Albert Hall, conducted by **Gianandrea Noseda**. On **6 August 2016**, at the Edinburgh International Festival, Skelton and mezzo-soprano **Alice Coote** perform Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the **Australian Chamber Orchestra**, conducted by **Richard Tognetti**. Both concerts will be broadcast on BBC Radio 3: live from the BBC Proms on 19 July and on **12 August** from the Edinburgh International Festival.

The Metropolitan Opera: Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*

After a critically heralded debut in the title role in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* at Baden Baden and most recently at English National Opera, **Stuart Skelton** continues as *Tristan* opening the 2016-17 Metropolitan Opera's season in New York on **Monday 26 September 2016**. It is the first time the opera has opened a season at the House since 1937. Furthermore, Skelton will be the first Australian singer to have the honour of opening The Met's season in a title role since Dame Joan Sutherland. For eight performances, until **27 October 2016**, he sings opposite soprano **Nina Stemme** as *Isolde* in a co-production between the **Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, The Metropolitan Opera, New York, Teatr Wielki-Polis National Theatre** and **National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing** directed by **Mariusz Treliński**. The cast is completed by **Ekaterina Gubanova** as Brangäne, **Evgeny Nikitin** as Kurwenal, **René Pape** as King Marke and conducted by **Sir Simon Rattle** and **Asher Fisch**. On **Saturday 8 October**, the performance will be broadcast in selected international cinemas as part of The Metropolitan Opera's **Live in HD** transmissions. This will be the 100th transmission in the history of the series.

Opéra National de Paris: Wagner's *Lohengrin*

Skelton's Wagner engagements continue in Paris where he revisits the title role in *Lohengrin* on **2, 5, 8, 11, 15 & 18 February 2017**. Joining him in **Claus Guth's** new production of Wagner's 1850 opera are **Rafal**

Siwek as Heinrich der Vogler, **Martina Serafin** and **Edith Haller** as Elsa von Brabant, **Tomasz Konieczny** as Friedrich von Telramund, and **Michaela Schuster** as Ortrud, under the baton of **Philippe Jordan**.

Bayerische Staatsoper: Janáček's Jenůfa

Skelton has a long association with the role of Laca in Janáček's *Jenůfa*. He returns to the role on **5, 8 and 11 March 2017** at the **Bayerische Staatsoper**, Munich. Based on the play *Její pastorkyňa* by **Gabriela Preissová**, it is counted as one of the first operas to have a libretto written as prose rather than poetry. With **Tomáš Hanus** conducting, Skelton performs with soprano **Sally Matthews** as Jenůfa, **Hanna Schwarz** as The old Buryja, **Pavol Breslik** as Steve Buryja and **Christian Rieger** as Altgesell in **Barbara Frey's** production. The cast reconvenes on **Friday 14 July 2017** for a performance as part of the **Munich Opera Festival** for which Skelton is reunited with **Eva-Maria Westbroek** in the title role, with whom he sang *Tristan und Isolde* in Baden-Baden and Berlin.

Concert Highlights

Stuart Skelton is in demand on concert stages around the world and this continues in the 2016-17 season with a particular focus on Wagner works. On **19 November 2016**, soprano **Nina Stemme** and **Skelton** sing highlights from *Tristan und Isolde* with the **Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra** at the Federation Concert Hall under the baton of **Marko Letonja**. Continuing in Australia, Skelton joins the **West Australia Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Asher Fisch** on **25 and 26 November** to perform a selection of Wagner arias. On **1 and 3 December 2016**, he returns to Melbourne's Hamer Hall to perform excerpts from Act II of Wagner's final work *Parsifal* with mezzo-soprano **Michelle de Young**, conductor **Simone Young** and the **Melbourne Symphony Orchestra**. Skelton and de Young are reunited on **8 and 9 June 2017** in Spain to close the **Orquesta Sinfónica de Bilbao's** 2016-17 season. They are joined by bass **Callum Thorpe** and conductor **Erik Nielsen** to perform *Die Walküre* Act I.

Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, 'Song of the Earth,' is a favourite of Skelton's. Mezzo-soprano **Kelley O'Connor** and he aptly perform the work on Earth Day, **22 April** as well as **21 April 2017**. **Louis Langrée** conducts the **Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra** at the Taft Theatre on both evenings. On **30 May 2017**, Skelton is reunited with conductor **Edward Gardner** – with whom he works regularly - for a concert performance of Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes* with the Bergen Philharmonic. Skelton's performance as Peter Grimes was described in the Sunday Times as, '...singing with astonishing visceral intensity, (Skelton) is surely now the Grimes de nos jours.'

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Listings

BBC Proms: Beethoven's Missa Solemnis

Tenor
BBC Philharmonic/Gianandrea Noseda
Royal Albert Hall, London
Tuesday 19 July 2016

Wagner: Tristan und Isolde

Tristan
The Metropolitan Opera, New York
26, 30 September, 3, 8, 10, 17, 21, 27 October
2016

Stuart Skelton Sings Wagner

Tenor
West Australia Symphony Orchestra/Asher
Fisch
Perth Concert Hall, Perth
Friday 25, Saturday 26 November 2016

Opéra National de Paris: Lohengrin

Lohengrin
Orchestra and Chorus of Paris National
Opera/Philippe Jordan
Opéra Bastille, Paris
2, 5, 8, 11, 15, 18 February 2017

Das Lied von der Erde

Tenor
Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra/Louis Langrée
Taft Theatre, Cincinnati
Friday 21 & Saturday 22 April 2017

Die Walküre Act I (Excerpts) Tenor

Orquesta Sinfónica de Bilbao
Callum Thorpe/Bilbao Symphony Orchestra/Erik
Nielsen
Palacio Euskalduna, Bilbao
Thursday 8 & Friday 9 June 2017

Edinburgh International Festival: Alice Coote and Stuart Skelton sing Mahler

Tenor
Australian Chamber Orchestra/Richard Tognetti
Queen's Hall, Edinburgh
Saturday 6 August 2016

Wagner: Tristan und Isolde (excerpts)

Tenor
Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra/Marko Letonja
Federation Concert Hall, Tasmania
Saturday 19 November 2016

Wagner: Parsifal (excerpts from Act II)

Tenor
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra/Simone Young
Hamer Hall, Melbourne
Thursday 1, Saturday 3 December 2016

Janáček: Jenůfa

Laca Klemen
Bavarian State Orchestra/Thomáš Hanus
Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich
5, 8, 11 March 2017

Peter Grimes

Tenor
Bergen National Opera/Edward Gardner
Griegshallen
Tuesday 30 May 2017

Munich Opera Festival: Jenůfa

Laca Klemen
Bavarian State Orchestra/Thomáš Hanus
Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich
Friday 14 July 2017