Zwakele Tshabalala

Tenor

With a “bristling and heartfelt intensity” (*The Guardian*), up and coming South African tenor Zwakele Tshabalala captivates audiences with his touching performances on the opera stage. In his rapidly developing career, Tshabalala has established himself as a rising star, leaving a lasting impression wherever he performs.

Last season Tshabalala was invited to join English National Opera as a Harewood Artist after his acclaimed performance as Hot Biscuit Slim in *Paul Bunyan* at Alexandra Palace. He subsequently made his main stage debuts in the British premieres of Heggie’s *It’s a Wonderful Life* and Jeanine Tesori’s *Blue,* in which he sang the role of The Son to critical acclaim. His remarkable talent has shone internationally in the past few seasons as Sportin’ Life in Matthew Wild’s acclaimed new production of *Porgy and Bess* for Theater an der Wien, and the title role in Dutch National Opera’s world premiere performances of *Anansi*.

Tshabalala’s versatility and undeniable charisma have seen him excel in traditional as well as contemporary roles including his captivating portrayal of Rodolfo (*La bohème*) in *Abracadopera!* for Sky Arts and his recent inclusion in the Endellion Festival as Alfredo in *La traviata*.

On the concert stage performing Beethoven’s Symphony No.9, he joined Marin Alsop as part of her celebration of Beethoven’s 250th anniversary at the World Economic Forum in ‘An International Call for Unity and Joy’in January 2020, made his anticipated BBC Proms debut with the Chineke! Orchestra under the baton of Kevin John Edusei, and recently joined Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Barbican.

This season he continues his work with English National Opera as Nick in *The Handmaid’s Tale* and Gastone in *La traviata*. He makes his US debut with Marin Alsop with both Colorado Symphony in Denver and returns to the Royal Albert Hall to sing *Gospel Messiah* with BBC Concert Orchestra. He also joins Ed Gardner and London Philharmonic Orchestra for Kurt Weill and Bertolt Brecht’s satirical work *Seven Deadly Sins.*