James Hendry
Conductor

A former member of Royal Opera House Covent Garden’s prestigious Jette Parker Young Artists Programme, Associate Member of Royal Northern College of Music and First Kapellmeister of Staatstheater Hannover, James Hendry stands at the forefront of young British conductors. This season, Hendry takes on a slew of Italian masterpieces as he directs productions of Verdi’s *Otello*, *Aida*, and *Messa da Requiem*, adding to an already impressive catalogue with the theatre including *Carmen*, *La Boheme*, *Tosca*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Eugene Onegin*, *Rigoletto* and *L’Elisir d’Amore*. Elsewhere, he debuts at Opéra National de Lyon, leading a production of Offenbach’s *Barbe-Bleue* and, looking further forward, Finnish National Opera and Ballet for a production of Verdi’s *Don Carlo*.

In previous seasons, Hendry has worked on numerous productions at Royal Opera House Covent Garden such as *Oreste*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Adriana Lecouvreur*, *Hänsel und Gretel* and *Turandot*, and assisted Sir Antonio Pappano on the opera house’s productions of *Madama Butterfly*, *La Forza del Destino,* *Macbeth* and *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, as well as directed productions at English National Opera (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Oper Frankfurt (*Don Giovanni*), Luzerner Theater (*Revue des Follies*) and Opera North (*The Marriage of Figaro*). Also a keen symphonic conductor, he has appeared in recent seasons with George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchester der Tiroler Festspiele Erl, Southbank Sinfonia, Orchestra of Opera North, Niedersächsisches Jugendsinfonieorchester and Hull Philharmonic Orchestra.

Hendry grew up in Kingston upon Hull and was one of the first students to be accepted onto the Yorkshire Young Musicians programme. He went on to study piano with Helen Krizos at Royal Northern College of Music and later as a répétiteur with Kevin Thraves, earning a British Education Award for outstanding achievements during his studies. He has worked regularly with the Hallé choral team, working as Assistant Director of the Hallé Youth Choir, helping to prepare the choruses for the Hallé’s performance of Vaughan Williams’s *Sancta Civitas* at the BBC Proms and working as vocal coach and accompanist for the Hallé Choir Academy. He has an ongoing association with the National Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company, for which he has conducted all the main G&S titles including *The Mikado*, *HMS Pinafore* and *The Gondoliers*.