Russell Thomas

Tenor

American tenor Russell Thomas is now one of the most sought-after tenors of his generation having established his reputation in key lyric roles such as Don Carlo, Manrico (*Il trovatore*), Don Alvaro (*La forza del destino*) and Pollione (*Norma*). As an alumnus of the Metropolitan Opera’s Lindemann Program, Thomas most recently returned to the company for a European Tour with the Met Orchestra, under the baton of Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and previously performed as Don Carlo, Rodolfo (*La bohème*) and Ismaele (*Nabucco*), the latter of which was broadcast worldwide via the Metropolitan Opera’s Live in HD series.

In 2021, Thomas became the first Artist in Residence at LA Opera. This new role took him to the heart of the company not only as a performer but as a curator of the new After Hours recital series and as a mentor to the Russell Thomas Young Artists, alongside recent performances of *Turandot* (Calaf), *Aida*(Radames) and his “heart-breakingly beautiful” (*LA Times*) *Otello*, under James Conlon. In the 2023/24 season, Thomas sang in the world premiere of *Fire and Blue Sky,* a concert work commission by Thomas and inspired by his personal journey as an artist, written by Emmy Award-winning composer Joel Thompson.

Also in the 2023/24 season, Thomas debuted his “flawless” (*Houston Press*) *Parsifal* at the Houston Grand Opera.

Highlights in 2024/25 will include Thomas’ return to Lyric Opera Chicago for Matthew Ozawa’s production of *Fidelio* (Florestan), The Metropolitan Opera for *Die Frau ohne Schatten* (Kaiser) under Yannick Nézet-Séguin, and Houston Grand Opera as *Tannhauser,* under Erik Nielsen, both major debuts.

Significant European debuts in recent seasons have included Don Alvaro (*La forza del destino*) under Paolo Arrivabeni at Den Norske Opera, the same role in Frank Castorf’s production at Deutsche Oper, Berlin and at Opéra national de Paris, and at Staatsoper Hamburg in the title role of Peter Konwitschny’s *Don Carlos* under Leo Hussain. Thomas returned to Royal Opera House, Covent Garden as Cavaradossi (*Tosca*) under Alexander Soddy, following his performance in the previous season as Calaf (*Turandot*) conducted by Antonio Pappano.

Thomas has enjoyed a long collaboration with renowned director Peter Sellars, notably creating the role of Lazarus in John Adams’ *The Gospel According to the Other Mary* in the world premiere performances with Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel, now released on Deutsche Grammophon.

Thomas is in great demand on the concert platform and his notable performances include Classical Pride for Szymanowski’s Symphony No.3 at the Barbican Centre, his debut with Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia for *Das Lied von der Erde* under Tugan Sokhiev; his first Loge (*Das Rheingold*) with New York Philharmonic and Alan Gilbert; Beethoven Symphony No.9 in the Vienna Konzerthaus’ annual New Year series under Gianandrea Noseda; on tour to Hamburg with Wiener Philharmoniker under Andris Nelsons and in the title-role of Stravinsky’s *Oedipus Rex* in concert performances under Esa-Pekka Salonen in Helsinki.