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.

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, the title role in Dutch National Opera’s world premiere performances of *Anansi*, and most recently as Trin in Tatjana Gürbaca’s new production of *La fanciulla del West* for Opéra national de Lyon under Daniele Rustioni. As a Harewood Artist for English National Opera, Tshabalala’s critically acclaimed highlights on stage include The Son in Jeanine Tesori’s *Blue*, Hot Biscuit Slim in *Paul Bunyan* at Alexandra Palace, Nick in *The Handmaid’s Tale*, and the British premiere of Jake Heggie’s *It’s a Wonderful Life*. 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 debuts at the Endellion Festival as Alfredo (*La traviata)* and Opera Holland Park as Beppe (*Pagliacci*). Upcoming he returns to Welsh National Opera as Borsa in Adele Thomas’ new production of *Rigoletto* under Pietro Rizzo, as well as making his role and company debut as Steersman and Shepherd in *Tristan und Isolde* for Opéra Royal De Wallonie-Liège under Giampaolo Bisanti.

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, made his anticipated BBC Proms debut with Chineke! Orchestra under the baton of Kevin John Edusei, and recently joined Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Barbican. Upcoming Zwakele makes his Wiener Konzerthaus debut in Handel’s *Gospel Messiah* under Marin Alsop. This piece has brought him great success in recent seasons with BBC Concert Orchestra and Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra.