

# James Oxley

Tenor



“...yet it was perhaps James Oxley’s Sandy, a wide-eyed portrayal of innocence corrupted, who was particularly striking.”

**The Guardian**

**James Oxley** studied as a cellist at the Royal College of Music and later gained a scholarship to Oxford where he read music. He subsequently developed his singing, studying privately with Rudolf Piernay. In 1992 he won first prize at both the Mary Garden and the Great Grimsby International competitions and, in 1994, was awarded first prize at the renowned International Vocalisten Concours at 's-Hertogenbosch. He is currently Head of Singing at Rugby School.

He has appeared at all the major concert halls in London, at Symphony Hall Birmingham and Philharmonic Hall Liverpool, as well as at the Three Choirs Festival. Notable UK concert credits include *Missa Solemnis* with Heinrich Schiff and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Stravinsky *Renard* with Psappha at the BBC Proms, Haydn *Creation* and Mozart *Great Mass* with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Handel *Alexander's Feast* with the Royal Northern Sinfonia and Nicholas McGegan. His engagements have taken him throughout Europe, especially to France where he has worked with Philippe Herreweghe, Hervé Niquet and Christophe Rousset. He has given performances of *Israel in Egypt* with Il Fondamento in France and Belgium, Lully *Alceste* and Rameau *Les Indes Galantes* with L'Atelier Lyrique de Tourcoing and Jean-Claude Malgoire and has performed at the Göttingen Handel Festival in Germany. He has also sung Purcell *Fairy Queen* and the title role Charpentier *Actéon* for Christian Curnyn and the Early Opera Company, and as part of John Eliot Gardiner's landmark Bach Cantata Pilgrimage with the Monteverdi Choir in the UK and Europe, also recorded for the Soli Deo Gloria label.

Further afield, he has sung *Acis and Galatea* with Philharmonia Baroque and Nicholas McGegan in San Francisco, Bach's *B Minor Mass* with the Auckland Philharmonia, Britten *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings* with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Edo de Waart and given concerts in Tel Aviv, Hong Kong and Singapore. He has also sung Schumann *Dichterliebe* with pianist David Owen Norris in Australia.

Other ensembles he has worked with include the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony, Manchester

Camerata, Britten Sinfonia, Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields, City of London Sinfonia, Les Talens Lyriques, Double Bande, The Sixteen, and the Gabrieli Consort and Players.

Opera productions include **Lucano** *L'incoronazione di Poppea* for English National Opera, **Merkur** in Strauss *Die Liebe der Danae* and **Stroh** *Intermezzo* for Garsington, Britten *The Prodigal Son* and **Alessandro** Mozart *Il Re Pastore* for New Kent Opera, Purcell *King Arthur* at the Opéra Comique de Paris, **Belmonte** Mozart *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* at the Spoleto Festival, **Lurcanio** Handel *Ariodante* for the Covent Garden Festival conducted by Christian Curnyn, **Sandy** in Maxwell-Davies' *The Lighthouse* with Psappha at the Buxton Festival, and the title role in Bernstein's **Candide** and **Steersman** in *The Flying Dutchman* for the Opéra de Rouen. He appears regularly at the Opéra de Rennes, where productions have included **Lensky** *Eugene Onegin*, **Antinoüs** Fauré *Pénélope*, **Gérald** *Lakme*, **Male Chorus** *The Rape of Lucretia*, Schumann *Der Rose Pilgerfahrt* and **Arbace** *Idomeneo*, **Belmonte** *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, **Ferrando** *Così fan tutte*, **Orphée** in Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice* at Theater Dortmund, **Sellem** *The Rake's Progress* for Opéra-Théâtre de St-Etienne, and **Acis** *Acis and Galatea* at the Reinsberg Festival conducted by Martin Haselböck,

Recent and future highlights include the role of **Madwoman** *Curlew River* for Opéra de Dijon, Handel's *Messiah* with De Nieuwe Philharmonie Utrecht and also the Krakow Philharmonic, for which he recently sang the title role in *Jephtha*, Bach's *St Matthew Passion* with the Royal Northern Sinfonia and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, Mendelssohn's *St Paul* and *Lobgesang* and Bruckner's *Te Deum* with the Three Choirs Festival, Bach's *John Passion* with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* with the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, Handel's *Messiah* with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, and Bach's *Magnificat* with the NDR Hannover. 

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