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# Thomas Blunt

## Selected Reviews

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### ***Rigoletto, Glyndebourne on Tour (October 2019)***

"Thomas Blunt directed the Glyndebourne Tour Orchestra like a true Verdi veteran: the tempos were always brisk; disfiguring rallentandos and soloistic *acuti* were banished; the drama emerged."

**-Roger Parker, *Opera Magazine***

"Thomas Blunt conducts a swift, clean account of the score... [with] verve and vigour"

**-Rupert Christiansen, *The Telegraph***

"the fine young conductor Thomas Blunt"

**-Richard Morrison, *The Times***

"Musically, the performance is tautly conducted by Thomas Blunt."

**-Hugh Canning, *The Sunday Times***

"The Glyndebourne Tour Orchestra played well for Thomas Blunt, strings whipping up a frenzy in Rigoletto's tortured "Cortigiani" aria."

**-Mark Pullinger, *Bachtrack***

"Luckily, under the baton of Thomas Blunt, there was sterling quality in the orchestra, chorus and cast."

**-Fiona Maddocks, *The Observer***

"From the Prelude on, Thomas Blunt's conducting and the GT Orchestra made the score sound gratifyingly black and, however light and nuanced on its feet, weighed down with tragedy. The storm scene is gripping, and in general the pit drives the show."

**-Peter Reed, *Classical Source***

### ***Die Zauberflöte, Welsh National Opera at the Birmingham Hippodrome (March 2019)***

"Conductor Thomas Blunt drew crisp playing from the WNO Orchestra."

**-Claire Seymore, *Opera Today***

"[The singing and acting were] competently supported by a well-balanced orchestra under the baton of Thomas Blunt."

**-Robert Gainer, *Stage Talk Magazine***

"Thomas Blunt conducted a fleet-footed show with an excellent cast."

**-*The Sunday Times***

### ***La Traviata, Longborough Festival Opera (June 2018)***

"Thomas Blunt's conducting achieves an excellent balance between clarity, nuance and energy with the result that this interpretation of *La traviata* is as successful as it is innovative"

**-Sam Smith, *MusicOMH***

"Thomas Blunt conducts with an intuitive understanding of the drama."

**-David Truslove, *Classical Source***

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### **Don Pasquale, Longborough Festival Opera (July 2015)**

"The loyal audience were also introduced to two highly promising talents in conductor Thomas Blunt and soprano Susanna Hurrell."  
**-Robert Gainer, *Bachtrack***

"This year sees a new conductor, Thomas Blunt, in the pit at Longborough bringing bounce and momentum to the score. He's making a name for himself in Bern at the moment, so I understand, but I hope we shall hear more of him over here. The playing of Longborough's house orchestra was, as usual, superb."

**-Roger Jones, *Seen and Heard International***

"...with conductor Thomas Blunt at the helm – the result is pure joy."

**-Preston Witts, *Stratford-upon-Avon Herald***

### **Die Zauberflöte, Konzert Theater Bern/Orchester Musikkollegium Winterthur (May 2015)**

"Durchwegs voll auf der Höhe der Aufgabe, was Feinschliff, Lupenreine, subtile Klanglichkeit, präzise Dramatik und solistische Einsätze (Flöte!) betrafen, war das Orchester Musikkollegium Winterthur. Unter der Leitung von Thomas Blunt gestaltete sich Note für Note ein intaktes flüssiges Zusammenspiel – Mozart konnte zufrieden sein". [...with fine-tuning, flawless intonation, subtle timbre, telling drama, and expertly-crafted solos, the Orchester Musikkollegium Winterthur was headed by Thomas Blunt, who note-for-note shaped a fluid ensemble - Mozart would have been delighted.]

**-Herbert Büttiker, *Der Landbote***

### **Die Zauberflöte, Konzert Theater Bern (November 2014)**

"Thomas Blunt als neuer Erster Kapellmeister führt das Berner Symphonieorchester mit Schwung und Souveränität in den Tempowechseln durch das Singspiel und erweist sich als einfühlsamer Begleiter für Chor und Solisten. Eine «Zauberflöte», wie man sie in Bern noch nicht gesehen hat. Das Fazit nach drei Stunden ist klar: empfehlenswert." [*Thomas Blunt as the new First Kapellmeister led the Bern Symphony Orchestra through the opera with verve, supreme ease in the tempo changes, and he proved to be a sensitive accompanist for chorus and soloists. A "Magic Flute" as never seen before in Bern. The conclusion after three hours is clear: a must-see.*]

**-Marianne Mühlemann, *Der Bund***

"Die musikalische Leitung lag in den Händen von Thomas Blunt, einem Könnler im besten Sinne. Mit ihm entfaltete das Berner Sinfonieorchester schwelgerischen Mozart-Klang, ohne sich selber in den Vordergrund zu drängen." [*The musical direction was in the hands of Thomas Blunt, an expert in the best sense. With him a voluptuous Mozart sound unfolded from the Bern Symphony Orchestra.*]

**-Die Neue Merker**

### **Ariadne auf Naxos, Konzert Theater Bern (May 2014)**

"...es reicht die tröstende Kraft der so fein ziselierten Musik, welche von den Musikerinnen und Musikern des Berner Symphonieorchesters unter der einfühlsamen Leitung von Thomas Blunt aus dem Graben erklingt." [...it was enough to hear such finely crafted music sounding from the pit, played by the Bern Symphony Orchestra under the sensitive direction of Thomas Blunt.]

**-Kaspar Sannemann, *Oper Aktuell***

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### **Handel's *Jephtha*, WNO (December 2012)**

"Thomas Blunt took over the WNO orchestra in elegant and effective style and proved most considerate of the singers throughout whilst keeping the tempi accurate and sound most stylish."  
**-Sue Loder, *Opera Today***

### **Mozart's *Haffner Symphony*, LPO, Royal Festival Hall (April 2012)**

"Thomas Blunt (British) sculpted a fiery, graceful and poised 'Haffner' Symphony (his baton-less gestures expressive rather than textbook), with dynamics finely observed and much that was stylish, not least the convincing (and occasional) use of senza vibrato: free-thinking rather than pedantic ... there was a good blaze of trumpets and crisp-sounding timpani in the finale to complete an impressive and pleasing performance."

**-Colin Anderson, *Classical Source***