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# Thando Mjandana

Tenor

Selected Reviews

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## ***Songs At Day, Songs at Night, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (October 2023)***

"The tenor Thando Mjandana did a great job at delivering [*Cradle Song*] with power and control. AS he did Harrison Birtwistle's elliptical miniature for acoustic guitar, flute and voice *Today Too*.

**Rebecca Franks, *The Times***

## ***Jupiter, Semele, Blackheath Halls Opera (September 2023)***

"Chiejina is balanced by Thando Mjandana's powerfully focused, heroically voiced Jupiter. Dramatically as well as vocally, he's a tenor of real heft."

**David Benedict, *The Stage***

## ***Acis and Sailor, Acis & Galatea and Dido & Aeneas, Waterperry Opera Festival (August 2023)***

"It comes as an exciting shock when Acis turns furious and Mjandana unleashes serious vocal power as he fights for Galatea."

**David Benedict, *The Stage***

"Thando Mjandana's rich tenor suits the amiable Acis, slow to anger and whose brief outburst is his downfall..."

**Robin Burfield, *Opera Scene***

## ***Nemorino, L'elisir d'amore, Longborough Festival Opera (June 2023)***

"As Nemorino, Thando Mjandana soon wins the audience's heart with his unassuming charm. ... His tenor evokes a distinctive poetry in the plaintive *Una furtiva lagrima*."

**Yehuda Shapiro, *The Stage***

"Making his Longborough debut, Thando Mjandana, with his highly pleasing tenor, possesses both the innocence to make us feel for Nemorino and the sharpness to make his interactions with the other characters entertaining."

**Sam Smith, *musicOMH***

"I also like very much the Nemorino of Thando Mjandana, from South Africa, a more muscular tenor than often in this role, but perfectly capable of tender shades in "*Una furtiva lagrima*", and a clever actor between the forlorn and the cocky that alternate in this interesting character."

**Stephen Walsh, *The Arts Desk***

## ***Tamino, The Magic Flute, Welsh National Opera (April 2023)***

"The voice of Thando Mjandana as Tamino stood out"

**Richard Evans, *Theatre North Reviews***

"Thando Mjandana was convincing as Tamino, with a strong clear voice that distinguished himself both in his solo work and when cutting through ensembles."

**Robert Gainer, *bachtrack***

"As Tamino, South African tenor Thando Mjandana has a beautiful heroic voice. He has recently played Nemorino and Don Basilio but he clearly has a non-comic tenor persona inside him too."

**Adrian Mourby, *Opera Now***

## ***Messenger Theodora, Royal Opera House (January 2022)***

"Thando Mjandana makes a positive impression in the small role of Marcus."

**George Hall, *The Stage***

"With the excellent chorus, and the young tenor Thando Mjandana as a very fine messenger, the performance came together beautifully."

**Mark Ronan, *The Article***

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"The tiny role of Marcus, limited to recitative but involved in certain key moments of the drama, finds in Thando Mjandana [with] a vocal energy giving bel cantist colours to his tenor."

**Mark Everist, *Olyrix***

## **Gastone de Letorières *La traviata*, Royal Opera House (October 2021)**

"Each member of the supporting cast was excellent, with a particularly noteworthy Gastone from Thando Mjandana – an Alfredo waiting in the wings if ever we heard one."

**Keith McDonnell, *Music OMH***

## **Nemorino *L'elisir d'amore*, Waterperry Opera Festival (August 2021)**

"Thando Mjandana was a sympathetic Nemorino, vulnerable and guileless but blest with a sweet tenor voice ('Una furtiva lagrima' was wholly entrancing)"

**Mark Valencia, *Opera Magazine***

"Vocally there was not a weak link in the cast, headed by a Nemorino of exceptional promise from Thando Mjandana with his – all-too-rare these days – true, clear and musical Italianate lyric tenor. His highlight just had to be his nuanced heartfelt romanza 'I saw a tear fall silently' ('Una furtiva lagrima')."

**Jim Pritchard, *Seen and Heard International***

"South African tenor Thando Mjandana made an appealing Nemorino, ensuring that the character's lack of confidence simply came from his menial position. [...] There is still the problem accepting the character's dimness at believing in Dulcamara, but perhaps more problematic is the underlying cruelty of the plot (in fact both Donizetti's popular comedies have a strong element of cruelty to them). It was Mjandana's finely judged performance which took the edge of this, and his winning way with Donizetti's beautiful lines."

**Robert Hugill, *Planet Hugill***

"Thando Mjandana (Nemorino) has the kind of sublime tenor voice that I could happily have listened to all night, as the audience chuckles at his comic antics and facial expressions while tugging at the heartstrings as he despairs of ever winning Adina's love. Instinctively, you find yourself rooting for this hapless underdog in the battle of the two lovers."

**Nicola Lisle, *Ox in a Box***

"[Thando Mjandana's] voice has an outstanding lyric tenor ring to it, and I can easily imagine him singing many a Mozart role. His warmth and enthusiasm for singing and being on the stage was a joy to see. Mjandana's una furtiva lagrima – that audition warhorse for many a lyric tenor – was sung delicately, honestly and with just the right amount of nectar."

**Diary of a Londoness**

## **Beginnings: New and Early Opera, Guildhall School of Music and Drama (June 2021)**

"...Mjandana – tickled by his mistress's feathers – soared to the aphrodisiacal heights..." (*The Apothecary*)

"Mjandana was a fine storyteller as Historicus, drawing us into Solomon's dilemma..." (*Judicum Salomonis*)

**Claire Seymour, *Opera Magazine***

"... tenor Thando Mjandana a fine Historicus..." (*Judicum Salomonis*)

**Mihaela Bodlovic, *Opera Now***

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## Odoardo *Ariodante*, Royal Opera House (November 2020)

"My ear was also caught by a South African tenor Thando Mjandana in the tiny role of a biddable courtier: what a beautiful voice he has."

**Rupert Christiansen, *The Telegraph***

"Tenor Thando Mjandana sang with great beauty in the minor role of Odoardo"

**Mark Valencia, *Bachtrack***

"South African tenor Thando Mjandana makes a notable contribution in the tiny role of the King's favourite, Odoardo."

**George Hall, *The Stage* \*\*\*\*\***

"The rest of the cast are equally fine [...] Thando Mjandana does much with the little Handel gives him as Finley's sidekick Odoardo."

**Tim Ashley, *The Guardian* \*\*\*\*\***

"Thando Mjandana's brief interventions as the King's confidant, Odoardo, revealed a keen, youthful lyric tenor"

**Hugh Canning, *The Times***

"Thando Mjandana sang promisingly in his brief appearances as Odoardo." **Jim Pritchard, *Seen and Heard International***

"As Odoardo, Thando Mjandana [...] acquitted himself well, and I look forward to hearing more of him."

**Robert Hugill, *Planet Hugill* \*\*\*\*\***

"South African tenor, Thando Mjandana (natty in braces) impressed as Odoardo, a servant, a small role which he made count."

**Kate Calder, *Edinburgh Music Review***

"Thando Mjandana completed the superb cast in the minor role of Odoardo."

**Claire Seymour, *Opera Today***

## Beppe in Donizetti's *Rita*, Guildhall School of Music and Drama (November 2020)

"As Beppe Thando Mjandana's tenor voice was projected with ease and had a natural bel canto charm"

**Jim Pritchard, *Seen and Heard International***

## Almaviva *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Act II trio), Jette Parker Young Artists Summer Performance, Royal Opera House (July 2019)

"Thando Mjandana [...] has a splendid voice which he uses well"

**Agnes Kory, *Seen and Heard International***

"Thando Mjandana brought slick comic timing to Almaviva."

**Louise Flind, *Opera Now***