

William Towers

Counter-tenor



“In the title role, the counter-tenor William Towers sang superbly, with power, dramatic confidence, ardour and sensitivity”

Stephen Pettitt, Opera Magazine

William Towers read English at Cambridge University and was a postgraduate scholar at the Royal Academy of Music. He appeared extensively as a soloist in Sir John Eliot Gardiner’s Bach Cantata Pilgrimage and his performances in the complete Bach series have been issued on CD.

His opera engagements have included **Medoro** (Handel *Orlando*) and **Farnace** (Mozart *Mitridate Re di Ponto*) for the Royal Opera House Covent Garden; **Oberon** (Britten *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*) for Teatro La Fenice Venice, Teatro Petruzzelli Bari, Teatro Municipale Valli Reggione Emilia, Staatsoper Hanover, for the Royal Opera at the Linbury,

and for the Aldeburgh Festival;

Apollo (Britten *Death in Venice*) for La Monnaie Brussels, Staatstheater Stuttgart, Luxembourg Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Prague State Opera, Aldeburgh Festival, Oper Frankfurt and the Bregenz Festival; **Ottone** (Handel *Agrippina*), **Ruggiero** (Vivaldi *Orlando Furioso*) and **Egeo** (Handel Teseo) for Frankfurt; **Ottone** (Handel *Ottone*) and **Ozia** (*La Giuditta*) at the Casa da Musica Porto; **Orfeo** (Gluck *Orfeo*) in Monte-Carlo; **Ottone** (Monteverdi *L’incoronazione di Poppea*) for the Teatro Real Madrid and Frankfurt; **Orlando** (Handel *Orlando*) at the Goettingen Festival, at the Drottningholm Theatre and with the Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco; **Giunio** (Porpora *L’Agrippina*) for the Barber Institute; **Poro** (Handel *Poro*) at the Goettingen Festival; **Giulio Cesare** (Handel *Giulio Cesare*) for Gothenburg Opera; **Unulfo** (Handel *Rodelinda*) for the Bolshoi Moscow; **Marco Fabio** (Caldara *Lucio Papirio Dittatore*) for Buxton International Festival; **Radamisto** (Handel *Radamisto*) for English Touring Opera; **Cristiano Mago** (Handel *Rinaldo*) for Glyndebourne Festival Opera; **Lotario** (Handel *Lotario*) for the London Handel Festival; and **Eustazio** (Handel *Rinaldo*) for Grange Park Opera.

Equally at home in contemporary work William’s roles include **5th Innocent** in Harrison Birtwistle’s *Minotaur* for the Royal Opera Covent Garden, John Adams’s *The Gospel According to the Other Mary* for Theater Bonn, **The Guest** in the UK premiere of Salvatore Sciarrino’s *Luci mie traditrici*, **Bishop Baldwyn** in Birtwistle’s *Gawain*, **Der Leiermann** in Benedict Mason’s *Playing Away*, **Lance** in the world premiere of Paul Frehner’s *Sirius on Earth* and **Little James** in Birtwistle’s *The Last Supper*.

His oratorio and recital schedule has featured appearances in many major venues and festivals in the UK and abroad, including the Wigmore Hall, Symphony Hall Birmingham, Barbican Hall, Royal Albert Hall, the Grosses Festspielhaus Salzburg, Konzerthaus Vienna, Fundación Juan March Madrid, National Auditorium Madrid, Three

Choirs Festival, Ravenna Festival, Flanders Early Music Festival, the Festivale de Musique Ancienne de Lyon and La Chaise Dieu. Recent concert performances include Handel’s *Solomon* in Estonia and Latvia, Handel’s *Belshazzar* with Nicholas McGegan in San Francisco, Bach’s *Mass in B minor* with Orquestra Simfonica De Les Illes Balears and Jonathan Cohen, Handel’s *Messiah* in Dresden with the MDR and with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra and Laurence Cummings, Bach’s *Christmas Oratorio* with the Royal Northern Sinfonia and Lars Vogt, Bach’s *St John Passion* with the BBCNOW and John Butt, Bach’s *Easter Oratorio* with the BBCNOW and Steven Devine, and the premiere of Harrison Birtwistle’s *Angel Fighter* in the Leipzig Bach Festival.

Recent highlights have included William’s role debut as the **Refugee** in Jonathan Dove’s *Flight* for Pacific Opera, Victoria Canada, and reprising the role of include reprising the role of **Cristiano Mago** in *Rinaldo* for Glyndebourne Festival Opera on tour. The previous seasons saw William in the title role in Handel’s **Amadigi** with English Touring Opera and the release of William’s much anticipated solo disc ‘Handelian Pyrotechnics’ with the Armonico Consort on Signum Classics, the culmination of his many years of performing Handel’s music.

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