

ELGAN LLŶR THOMAS

Welsh tenor Elgan Llŷr Thomas studied at the Royal Northern College of Music and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He is a former English National Opera Harewood Artist and a former Scottish Opera Emerging Artist.

In the 2021-22 season he made his debut at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden as First Noble of Brabant *Lohengrin*. He also sings Ralph Rackstraw *HMS Pinafore* for English National Opera, Lysander *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Scottish Opera, Cassio *Otello* and Steuermann *Der fliegende Holländer* for Grange Park Opera, and *Verdi's Requiem* with Dundee Choral Union.

Equally in demand on the concert platform, his recent engagements include Handel's *Messiah* (Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall); Mozart's *Requiem* (Danish National Symphony Orchestra)

His discography includes Orbin in Elgar's *Caractacus* for Hyperion (Opera North Orchestra, conducted by Martyn Brabbins); songs by Huw Watkins and William Mathias on *Taliesin's Songbook* (Tŷ Cerdd); an album of Welsh songs called *Llwybrau'n Cân*, and songs by Gareth Glyn on *Caneuon Gareth Glyn*.

He is the winner of numerous awards, including the 2015 Stuart Burrows International Voice Award; the 2015 Kerry-Keane Prize and Audience Prize at the Les Azuriales Opera Young Artists Programme and has had considerable success at the National Eisteddfod of Wales. He was also a recipient of a 2017-18 Opera Awards Foundation Bursary and was one of the first recipients of a Study Award from the Bryn Terfel Foundation.

EDMUND WHITEHEAD

British-Russian conductor and répétiteur Edmund Whitehead first achieved international recognition as a Jette Parker Young Artist Conductor and Répétiteur at the Royal Opera House. There he assisted and was mentored by Sir Antonio Pappano, and conducted a new production of Henze's *Phaedra*, excerpts from *Orfeo ed Euridice*, and also assisted Edward Gardner, Richard Farnes and Daniel Oren.

He worked as music staff on *La traviata*, *Hänsel und Gretel*, *La forza del destino*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *Otello*, *Werther*, *Death in Venice*, *Fidelio*, *Jenůfa* and *Kát'a Kabanová*. In 2020 he was invited back to the Royal Opera to conduct Richard Jones' critically-acclaimed new staging of HK Grüber's *Frankenstein!!* starring Allan Clayton.

In the 2021/22 season he returned to the Royal Opera as offstage conductor for *Tosca*, *Jenufa* and *Lohengrin*, was an assistant conductor with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and returned to the Wimbledon Symphony Orchestra as conductor for the Spring and Summer seasons.

Edmund studied at Oxford University, The Guildhall School, where he was later Assistant Conductor Fellow, and The National Opera Studio. He was subsequently a Young Artist at the Polish National Opera, Warsaw, and he also participated in ENOA workshops at Dutch National Opera and the Aix-en-Provence Festival.

BENJAMIN BRITTEN 1913-76
Michelangelo Sonnets
English translations by Jeremy Sams

VINCENZO BELLINI 1801-35
Malinconia
Ninfa gentile
Ma Rendi Pur Contento

ROBERT SCHUMANN 1810-56
Widmung
Du Bist wie eine Blume

HENRI DUPARC 1848-1933
Soupir
L'invitation au voyage

DILYS ELWYN-EDWARDS 1918-2012
The Cloths of Heaven

R S HUGHES 1855-1893
Arafa Don

INTERVAL

BENJAMIN BRITTEN 1913-76
The Plough Boy
Ava the yowes
Down by the Salley Gardens
The last rose of summer

ALUN HODDINOTT 1929-2008
Tra Bo Dau
Bugeilio'r Gwenith Gwyn
Mentra Gwen

MAURICE RAVEL 1875-1937
Five Greek folk songs

AARON COPLAND 1900-90
By the River