

Joel Williams

Tenor



Described by Opera Magazine as a singer "with flair, his tenor simultaneously caressing and resilient", Joel Williams is a graduate of King's College Cambridge, and the Royal College of Music International Opera Studio, where he was the Kiri te Kanawa Scholar. He is a former member of the Verbier Festival Academy, a Britten-Pears Young Artist, a Young Artist at Opera Holland Park and an Alvarez Young Artist at Garsington Opera. Joel is the recipient of an Independent Opera Fellowship.

Between 2019 and 2021 Joel was a member of the Centre de Perfeccionament Palau de les Arts in Valencia, singing roles such as Basilio/*Le nozze di Figaro*, Bardolfo/*Falstaff*, Le Mari/*Les mamelles de Tirésias*, Don Luigino/*Il Viaggio a Reims*, Hirte and Stimme eines jungen Seemanns in *Tristan und Isolde*, Gernando in Manuel Garcia's *L'isola Disabitata* and Beppo in *Pagliacci*.

In the season 2021/22, Joel will join the Studio of Bayerische Staatsoper Munich, where his roles will include Scaramuccio/*Ariadne auf Naxos*, Gaston and Victorin in *Die Tote Stadt*, Parpignol/*La bohème*, 4.Knappe/*Parsifal* and Nencio in Haydn's *L'infedelta delusa*, in a new production by Marie-Eve Signeyrole. He will also return to the Palau de les Arts Valencia to sing Narr in a new production of *Wozzeck*.

Elsewhere, he has appeared as Delfa in Alessandro Melani's opera *L'empio punito* at the 2020 Innsbrucker Festwochen für Alte Musik, Le Ruisseau/*Les Fêtes D'Hébé* at Opéra de Bastille in Paris, Don Ottavio/*Don Giovanni* at Opera Holland Park, Lysander/*A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Count Belfiore/*La Finta Giardiniera*, the title role in Offenbach's *Robinson Crusoe*, Mayor/*Albert Herring*, Hexe/*Hänsel und Gretel*, Dr Blind/*Die Fledermaus*, all as part of the Royal College of Music International Opera Studio.

Joel made his operatic debuts as a boy treble at the Royal Opera House, English National Opera and Glyndebourne, playing Cobweb in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, one of *Die Zauberflöte's* Drei Knaben, and peasant-child in Puccini's *Turandot*. In oratorio he performed as the boy-king Joas in Handel's *Athalia* with Paul McCreech and toured with the Monteverdi Choir and Sir John Eliot Gardiner.

Concert engagements include Stravinsky's *Threni* with the London Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Vladimir Jurowski, Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur* at the Verbier Festival, conducted by Valery Gergiev, Mozart's Requiem with the Noord Nederlands Orkest, Verdi's *Otello* (Act One) with the Cambridge University Musical Society conducted by Richard Farnes, Pärt's *Passio* with the Choir of

King's College Cambridge conducted by Stephen Cleobury, Bach's *St John* and *St Matthew Passions* with Merton College Choir, Oxford, Handel's *Messiah* with Bedford Choral Society, as well as performances throughout the UK of Mozart's Requiem and Cavalli's Magnificat, Haydn's *Creation*, Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, Vivaldi's Magnificat and Gabrieli's *In Ecclesii*. As a member of the Choir of King's College Cambridge, Joel took part in numerous international tours, recordings and radio and television broadcasts.

In recital, he has appeared at the Oxford Lieder Festival, Leeds Lieder, the Barber Institute at Birmingham University, the Leeds University International Concert Series, the Victoria Rooms in Bristol and at Wigmore Hall, broadcast live on BBC Radio 3.

Joel is the recipient of the Somerset Song Prize, the Sir Anthony Lewis Memorial Prize, the Sidney Sussex Lieder Competition, second prize in the Maureen Lehane Vocal Awards, and third prize in the Brooks-van der Pump English Song competition and the Joan Chissell Schumann competition. He was a Pembroke Lieder Scholar with Joseph Middleton and a finalist in the 2019 Royal Overseas League Competition.

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