

ANDRI BJÖRN RÓBERTSSON – Bass-baritone

Icelandic bass-baritone **Andri Björn Róbertsson** is much in demand on both the concert platform and the operatic stage. The 2021/22 season sees the launch of his much-anticipated debut recital CD on the Fuga Libera label. The album features songs by Icelandic composers Árni Thorsteinson and Schumann Lieder.

Last season, Andri was meant to return to Zurich Opera with the La Scintilla Orchestra for *St John's Passion* and revisit the roles of **Witness 3** and **Madman** in George Benjamin's *Lessons in Love and Violence* at the Châtelet, however, these productions were unfortunately affected by the COVID19 pandemic.

In the 2019/20 season, Andri made his House operatic debut at his native Icelandic Opera as **Figaro** in *Le Nozze di Figaro* and was meant to return to the Dutch National Opera as **Der Einäugige** in *Die Frau Ohne Schatten* however, this was also unfortunately interrupted by the COVID19 pandemic.

In previous seasons, Andri appeared at both the Staatsoper Hamburg and Opera National de Lyon with *Lessons in Love and Violence* singing both **Witness 3 / Madman**. These followed Andri's House debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden with the World Premiere of the same production.

As a 2016/17 Harewood Artist, Andri made his debut with the company as **Angelotti** in Catherine Malfitano's production of *Tosca*, subsequently performing the role of **Ceprano** in *Rigoletto* and **Basilio** (cover) in *The Barber of Seville*. Most recently, he performed the roles of **Lord Krishna** in Philip Glass's *Satyagraha* and **Theseus** in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the company. While also at ENO, Andri covered the role of **Fifth Jew** in *Salome* and gave recitals at the Wigmore Hall, London with ENO Harewood Artists and pianist Iain Burnside.

Other highlights include **Angelotti** in a semi-staged concert performance of *Tosca* opposite Kristine Opolais and Sir Bryn Terfel at the 2017 Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod with the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera and Superintendent Budd in Albert Herring at The Grange Festival.

In 2014/15 Andri joined the International Opera Studio at Zurich Opera where he performed **Sprecher/Zweiter Priester** in *Die Zauberflöte*, **Der König** in *Die Gänsemagd*, **Brabantische Edle** in *Lohengrin* and **Fedja Dawidowitsch Pronin** in *Fälle* by Oscar Strasnoy. He subsequently returned as a guest artist to reprise his role as **Sprecher** and to perform **Priest/Pan/He** in Purcell's *King Arthur*. In 2014, he was named as a HSBC Laureate of Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, where he performed the role of **Bass** in *Trauernacht* – a staged performance based on J. S. Bach's sacred cantatas at the Festival, and the production has since travelled to various European venues. Other roles include **Sarastro** in Mozart's *The Magic Flute* with Garsington Opera at West Green House and again with Joanna MacGregor at the Bath International Music Festival, **Craftsman** in Elspeth Brooke's *The Commission* and **Barman/Hunter Gracchus/Policeman** in Francisco Coll's *Café Kafka* – a co-produced double-bill for Royal Opera House, Opera North and Aldeburgh Music.

Andri's oratorio repertoire includes Bach's *Cantatas*, *St John Passion* and *St Matthew Passion*, Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Harmoniemesse* and *The Creation*, Mozart's *Requiem* and *Coronation Mass*, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. Other concert engagements include the roles of **Cappadocian** and **Fifth Jew** in Richard Strauss's *Salome* with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, a series of concerts with Baroque Ensemble Café Zimmermann in Marseille, La Roque d'Antheron and Aix en Provence.

Andri is also a sought-after recitalist and has performed at the Oxford Lieder Festival, Icelandic Opera in Reykjavik, Festival d'Aix en Provence and L'Opéra de Lille as well as at Salurinn, Kópavogur, Iceland.

Andri was a semi-finalist in the 2015 Queen Sonja International Music Competition and was nominated as the 'Brightest Hope in Classical Music' at the 2013 Icelandic Music Awards. He studied at the Reykjavik Academy of Singing and Vocal Arts in his native Iceland, the Royal Academy of Music and the National Opera Studio, London. He gratefully acknowledges Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and her Foundation who provided him with significant mentoring and financial support. Andri is also grateful to the Behrens Foundation who sponsored his engagement as a Harewood Artist at ENO.

Andri is a Samling Artist and a Georg Solti Accademia Scholar.

www.andribjornrobertsson.co.uk

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Keynote Artist Management | 86-90 Paul Street | London | EC2A 4NE

Lizzie@keynoteartistmanagement.com

+44 (0) 7736 229 467