

## Allan Clayton MBE

Tenor

“..one thing, at least, was clear when this work returned to the Metropolitan Opera on Sunday afternoon: The company has a star on its hands in the tenor Allan Clayton. An established singer abroad, Clayton made his Met debut just this year, tireless and tormented in the title role of Brett Dean’s “Hamlet.” Back several months later, he is by far the high point of the company’s “Grimes” revival. Nimble, with a repertory that includes Handel alongside Kurt Weill’s “Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny,” he is bound for a rich future at the house...”

Joshua Barone, The New York Times, October 2022

The flexibility and consistency of Allan Clayton’s vocal range, combined with a magnetic stage presence, have led to international acclaim in music from Baroque to contemporary, his breadth demonstrated in recent title roles ranging from *Peter Grimes* and *Hamlet* to *Faust* and *Candide*, and a discography running from Handel to Dean.

He is in demand at leading opera houses around the world, singing the title role in the US premiere of Brett Dean’s *Hamlet* at Metropolitan Opera, followed by a definitive interpretation of *Peter Grimes* there and at Teatro Real Madrid, as well as at London’s Royal Opera, where he opened the season in the title role in *Jephtha*. He has often worked with Barrie Kosky at Komische Oper Berlin, most recently in Weill’s *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*, and previously as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Jupiter in *Semele* and the title role in *Candide*. He has also sung David in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at the Royal Opera House and Bayerische Staatsoper and Ferdinand in *Miranda* at Paris’s Opéra Comique.

Clayton has appeared at the BBC Proms many times since his first visit in 2008, including in Vaughan Williams’ *Pastoral Symphony*, Britten’s *War Requiem* and Berlioz’s *l’enfance du Christ*, and taking the title roles in Stravinsky’s *Oedipus Rex* and, most recently, Handel’s *Samson*. In London’s Barbican Hall, he has sung in *The Dream of Gerontius* and Britten’s *Spring Symphony* with the London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Mark Elder and Sir Simon Rattle respectively, and in Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* with BBC Symphony Orchestra and Sakari Oramo. Last season at the Barbican, he performed Schubert’s *Winterreise* in a new dramatic staging incorporating the work of Australian painter Fred Williams, which he also toured across Australia and brought to Snape Maltings as part of his artist residency, which focused on Benjamin Britten.

He is a frequent visitor to Wigmore Hall and gives lied recitals around the world, with repertoire including works such as Schubert’s *Winterreise* and *Die schöne Müllerin*, Vaughan Williams’ *On Wenlock Edge*, and songs by Strauss, Wolf, Duparc and Tippett. Several composers have written song cycles specifically with his voice in mind, including Mark-Anthony Turnage with *Refugee* and Josephine Stephenson with *Une saison en enfer*. An advocate of contemporary music, he has appeared in world premieres of George Benjamin’s *Written on Skin*, Jonathan Dove’s *The Adventures of Pinocchio* and Gerald Barry’s *Alice’s Adventures Underground*.

Discography:

Liszt: The Complete Songs Vol V (Hyperion)

Handel: Acis and Galatea (Chandos)

Where'er you walk: Arias for Handel's favourite tenor (Signum Classics)

Britten: Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings (Linn Records)

Purcell/Britten: Songs (Champs Hill)

Songs to the Moon with the Myrthen Ensemble (Signum Classics)

Mozart: Zaide (Signum Classics)

Mendelssohn: Complete Songs (Champs Hill)

Mozart: Die Schuldigkeit des ersten gebots (Signum Classics)

Handel: Belshazzar (Les Arts Florissants Edition)

Benjamin: Written on Skin (Nimbus Records)

Britten: Saint Nicholas (Hyperion)

Britten: Songs Vol. 2 (Onyx)

Verdi: Otello (LSO Live)

Handel: Messiah (Hyperion)

Handel: Joshua (Somm)

Lukaszewski: Via Crucis (Hyperion)

Handel: Messiah (Warner Classics)

Insomnia: Gurney, Britten, John Lennon with Aurora Orchestra (Warner Classics)

Musical collaborations: Paul Lewis, Graham Johnson, Malcolm Martineau, Roger Vignoles, Julius Drake, James Baillieu, Simon Lepper, Joseph Middleton, Sophie Bevan, James Newby and Louise Alder

Previous festival appearances: Adelaide, Cheltenham, Aldeburgh, Perth, Edinburgh

Awards: Whatsonstage Award for Excellence in Opera 2018; Royal Philharmonic Society Singer Award 2018; Glyndebourne's John Christie Award 2008; Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music; BBC New Generation Artist 2007–9; Queen's Commendation for Excellence; Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship; MBE in the Queen's 2021 Birthday Honours list

Studies: St John's College, Cambridge; Royal Academy of Music