ANDREW FOSTER-WILLIAMS

Bass-Baritone

Bass-baritone Andrew Foster-Williams enjoys a vibrant career on both the opera and concert stage and is graced with a vocal versatility allowing him to present a repertoire ranging from the classics of Bach, Beethoven, Handel, Mozart, and Weber to works of Romantic and Neoclassical masters such as Berlioz, Britten, R.Strauss, Stravinsky, and Wagner.

Andrew Foster-Williams’ career, initially built on his strong Baroque credentials, has in recent seasons found a new dramatic direction with successes as Pizarro (*Fidelio*) at Theater an der Wien and Philharmonie de Paris, as Escamillo in a new Kasper Holten production of *Carmen* at the Bregenzer Festspiele conducted by Paolo Carignani and Jordan de Souza, and unanimously praised performances of Telramund in Wagner’s *Lohengrin* at La Monnaie conducted by Alain Altinoglu in a new production by Olivier Py as well as under the baton of esteemed conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin at the Lanaudière Festival.  His portrayal of Captain Balstrode in Christoph Loy’s divisive new production of *Peter Grimes* at Theater an der Wien alongside acclaimed performances as Nick Shadow (*The Rake’s Progress*), Gunther (*Götterdämmerung*), and Golaud (*Pelléas et Mélisande*) have further enhanced a highly distinguished operatic profile.

Mr. Foster-Williams’ dramatic capacity has earned the respect of many of the most acclaimed stage directors as he “holds the attention of the audience with the energy of someone who has great experience, and with sensational vocal ability, which he uses with total freedom…” (*Opéra*).  He frequently is sought after by David Alden, Lotte de Beer, Kasper Holten, Barrie Kosky, Christof Loy, David Pountney, and Deborah Warner.

An impressive line-up of concert invitations has taken Andrew Foster-Williams to major stages with the most celebrated orchestras and conductors of our day including the Cleveland Orchestra with Franz Welser-Möst, Philadelphia Orchestra and Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Salzburg Mozarteum with Ivor Bolton, San Francisco Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas, Concertgebouw Orkest with Richard Egarr, Hong Kong Philharmonic under Edo de Waart, and the London Symphony Orchestra with Sir Colin Davis.

Andrew Foster-Williams offers a concert repertoire as diverse as it is broad including Bach’s Matthäus-Passion and Johannes-Passion, Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, Britten’s *War Requiem*, Haydn’s *Die Jahreszeiten*, Janáček’s *Glagolitic Mass*, Mahler’s Eighth Symphony, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, Schoenberg’s *Gurre-Lieder,* and Walton’s *Belshazzar’s Feast*.   He “opened the bass-baritone line not like a pompous oratorio singer but like a character in an opera – speaking to the audience, drawing us in, making the words mean something” (*The Washington Post*).  The professional esteem and critical success of Andrew Foster-Williams has garnered collaborations with David Afkham, Herbert Blomstedt, William Christie, Teodor Currentzis, Phillipe Herreweghe, Paul McCreesh, Cornelius Meister, Marc Minkowski, Hervé Niquet, Vasily Petrenko, David Robertson, Ulf Schirmer, and Emmanuel Villaume among many others.

Highlights of the 2018-19 season include the roles of Lysiart in a new production by Christoph Loy of Weber’s *Euryanthe* at Theater an der Wien conducted by Constantin Trinks, Golaud in a new production by Barbora Horáková Joly of *Pelléas et Mélisande* at Theater Basel led by Erik Nielsen, and Kurwenal in a new production of *Tristan und Isolde* at La Monnaie directed by Ralf Pleger under the baton of Alain Altinoglu. On the concert stage, Andrew Foster-Williams joins Vasily Petrenko and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic for Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Requiem*, Vladimir Jurowski and the London Philharmonic Orchestra for Haydn’s *The Seasons*, and Lorenzo Viotti and the Gulbenkian Orchestra for semi-staged performances of Gounod’s *Roméo et Juliette*.

Boasting an extensive discography, Andrew Foster-Williams’ commercial releases include Beethoven’s *Cantata on the Death of Emperor Joseph II* with the San Francisco Symphony (Tilson Thomas) released on SFSMedia, *The Seasons* with the London Symphony Orchestra (C.Davis) on LSO Live and with Gabrieli Consort & Players (McCreesh) on Signum, and *HMS Pinafore* with the Orchestra of Scottish Opera (Egarr) on Linn. Performances captured for DVD include a Gramophone Award-winning *The Fairy Queen* with Glyndebourne Festival Opera (Christie) and *Guillaume Tell* (Fogliani).