CLAY HILLEY, Tenor

American heldentenor, Clay Hilley, is poised for a prominent international career in the most demanding roles of the operatic repertory. From Bacchus to Siegfried and Canio to Samson, The New York Times has acclaimed the Georgia native for his “vocal heft, clarion sound and stamina.”

Honing his repertoire and stage experience at first by covering in the leading international opera houses of North America, engagements have included *Parsifal* with Yannick Nézet-Séguin at the Metropolitan Opera, *Der Ring des Nibelungen* with Donald Runnicles and *Turandot* conducted by Nicola Luisotti at San Francisco Opera, *Siegfried* at the Canadian Opera Company led by Johannes Debus, and *Samson et Dalila* under the baton of Emmanuel Villaume at The Dallas Opera.

In the 2020-21 season, Clay Hilley was engaged to sing Walther von Stolzing in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* with the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano, the title role of *Siegfried* at Nationaltheater Mannheim, *Fidelio* at Prague State Opera and Washington National Opera, *Aida* at Pittsburgh Opera, the title role of *Der Zwerg* at San Francisco Opera, and the role of Phoebus in Schmidt’s *Notre-Dame* at Theatre St. Gallen.  Concert appearances include Mahler’s *Das Lied von der Erde* with the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano and the Second Act of *Tristan und Isolde* with Edward Gardner leading the Orchestra of the Norwegian National Opera and Ballet.

Clay Hilley joined Lyric Opera of Chicago in 2019-20 for performances of *Dead Man Walking* and to cover Siegfried in *Der Ring des Nibelungen.* Other engagements included the Drum Major in the Metropolitan Opera’s new production by William Kentridge of *Wozzeck, and* a semi-staged presentation of *Die Tote Stadt* at Bard SummerFest.

In recent seasons, Clay Hilley has performed the title role of Dvořák's *Dimitrij*in a new production by Anne Bogart for the Bard Music Festival conducted by Leon Botstein, the title role of Mozart’s *Idomeneo* both in a new production by Arila Siegert at the Salzburger Landestheater under the baton of Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla and at the Theater Würzburg in a production by Stefan Suschke conducted by Enrico Calesso, Radamès in *Aida* with Opera Southwest and Baltimore Concert Opera, Canio in *Pagliacci* with Virginia Opera, and Erik in *Der fliegende Holländer* with Austin Lyric Opera.

Concert experience includes performances of Beethoven’s *Fidelio* with Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Mahler’s Eighth Symphony with Marin Alsop and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival, with John DeMain and the Madison Symphony Orchestra, and with Leon Botstein and the American Symphony Orchestra, as well as *Das Lied von der Erde* with The Apollo Orchestra of Washington, D.C. Emerging as a world class Straussian tenor, he has sung Menelaus in *Die ägyptische Helena* with Gil Rose and Odyssey Opera and Gundelfingen

in *Feuersnot* with Leon Botstein and the American Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall.

The Wagner Society of New York presented Clay Hilley in recital, singing a program of Mahler, Janáček, Mozart, Dvořák, and Wagner following the Society’s recognition of the tenor with its Top Prize, the Robert Lauch Award, in 2015. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education at the University of Georgia, a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Georgia State University, a Professional Studies Certificate from the Manhattan School of Music, and a Performer's Certificate from the Opera Institute at Boston University.