Andrew Foster-Williams

Bass-Baritone

Andrew Foster-Williams possesses a vocal versatility that allows him to present repertoire ranging from the classics of Bach, Gluck, Handel and Mozart through to more recent masters such as Britten, Debussy, Wagner and Stravinsky on both the opera stage and concert platforms alike.

Andrew Foster-Williams’ career, initially built on his strong Baroque credentials, has in recent seasons moved towards more dramatic repertoire with successes as Pizarro (*Fidelio*) at Theater an der Wien and Philharmonie de Paris, and an unanimously praised debut as Telramund in Wagner’s *Lohengrin* under esteemed conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin at the Festival de Lanaudière. A subsequent portrayal of Captain Balstrode in Christoph Loy’s divisive production of *Peter Grimes* at Theater an der Wien, alongside acclaimed performances as Nick Shadow (*The Rake’s Progress*) and Gunther (*Götterdämmerung*) have further enhanced an already highly regarded operatic profile. Other recent role debuts as Lysiart in Christof Loy’s staging of *Euryanthe* at Theater an der Wien under Constantin Trinks and as Kurnewal in *Tristan und Isolde* at La Monnaie under Alain Altinoglu highlight a dramatic capacity that has earned the respect of many 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*).   Opera performances in the current season include his role debut as Mr Flint (*Billy Budd*) at the George Enescu Festival under Hannu Lintu, and Donner (*Das Rheingold*) conducted by Alain Altinoglu in the first instalment of Romeo Castelluci’s new presentation of *Der Ring des Nibelungen* at La Monnaie.

Praised for his facility in the French operatic repertoire, recent roles include Golaud (*Pelléas et Mélisande*) and specially curated performances at Opéra National de Bordeaux to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of Cervantes featuring music from Ravel’s *Don Quichotte à Dulcinée* and Massenet’s *Don Quichotte* under Marc Minkowski. Andrew Foster-Williams made his house debut at Opernhaus Zürich in 2021 as the Four Villains in Andreas Homoki’s setting of *Les contes d’Hoffmann*under Antonino Fogliani, roles he since has reprised in a new production at Gothenburg Opera and in Barrie Kosky’s fantastical staging at Komische Oper Berlin.

As a regular guest on the Opéra français series of the Palazzetto Bru Zane label, CD releases include Joncières’ *Dimitri*, Gounod’s *Cinq-Mars*, Saint-Saëns’ *Proserpine*, and Gounod’s *Faust*, winner of the Opera of the 19th Century category at the Opus Klassik 2020 awards.  Boasting an extensive discography, other commercial releases include Beethoven’s *Cantata on the Death of Emperor Joseph II* with San Francisco Symphony (Tilson Thomas) on SFSMedia, and *The Seasons* with Gabrieli Consort & Players (McCreesh) released on Signum and shortlisted for the 2017 Grammophone Awards. Performances captured on DVD include the Gramophone Award winning *The Fairy Queen* with Glyndebourne Festival Opera (Christie).

An impressive line-up of concert invitations has taken Andrew Foster-Williams to some of the most celebrated orchestras and conductors of our day. These include the Cleveland Orchestra/ Franz Welser-Möst, Salzburg Mozarteum/Ivor Bolton, San Francisco Symphony/Michael Tilson Thomas, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra/ Richard Egarr, Hong Kong Philharmonic/Edo de Waart, Gulbenkian Orchestra/Lorenzo Viotti and the Sibelius Festival/Dalia Stasevska. Foster-Williams offers a concert repertoire as diverse as it is broad which includes Bach’s *St John Passion*, Britten’s *War Requiem*, Schönberg’s *Gurrelieder*, Janáček’s *Glagolitic Mass* and Mahler’s Symphony No.8. Concert highlights this season include Messiah with Orquesta Sinfonica de Castille y Leon (Egarr), Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Requiem* with Houston Symphony Orchestra (Valčuha), *St Matthew Passion* with Netherlands Chamber Orchestra (Bolton) and Beethoven’s Symphony No.9 with Lahti Symphony Orchestra (Stasevska).