Daniel Okulitch

Bass-baritone

The renowned Canadian bass-baritone Daniel Okulitch is known for his commanding stage presence and impressive vocal versatility. He has performed with major opera companies and orchestras around the world taking on a diverse range of roles showcasing his musical intelligence and strong sense of artistry. Some of his most acclaimed portrayals are in the principal Mozart roles, including his recent debutat Opernhaus Zürich as Count Almaviva in Jan Philipp Gloger’s new production of *Le nozze di Figaro* under Stefano Montanori.

At the same time Okulitch is sought after for many contemporary operas and world premieres. Most notably he created the role of Ennis del Mar in Charles Wuorinen’s *Brokeback Mountain* at Teatro Real, premiered Lyndon B. Johnson in David T Little and Royce Vavrek’s *JFK* at Fort Worth Opera, performed General Groves in John Adams’ *Dr. Atomic* at Santa Fe Opera, and made his British debut as Mark Rutland in Nico Muhly’s *Marnie* at English National Opera. Okulitch recently reprised the role of Beck in Joby Talbot and Gene Scheer’s *Everest* with BBC Symphony Orchestra, set for future release on CD, and made a notable role debut as The Protector in George Benjamin’s *Written on Skin* at Opéra de Montréal, followed by Katie Mitchell’s production of *Lessons in Love and Violence* at Gran Teatre del Liceu. Daniel returns to Opéra de Montréal this season for the role of Axel Oxenstierna in the world premiere of Julien Bilodeau and Michel Marc Bouchard’s *La Reine-garçon.* Last season saw Daniel at LA Opera for Kaneza Schaal’s production of *Omar,* the 2023 Pulitzer Prize winning opera by Grammy Award-winning Rhiannon Giddens and composer Michael Abels conducted by John Kennedy**,** which will be presented by San Francisco Opera in the 2023/24 season led by John Kennedy.

On the concert stage Daniel Okulitch debuts Brahms’ Ein deutsches Requiem this season with South Dakota Symphony Orchestra under John Nelson, as well as Rachmaninov’s *Spring cantata* with Orquesta y Coro de la Communidad de Madrid conducted by Music Director Marzena Diakun. Elsewhere he joins the cast of Britten’s *Billy Budd* in concert performance at the George Enescu International Festival conducted by Hannu Lintu. Daniel has recently appeared as the bass soloist in Handel’s Messiahwith Houston Symphony Orchestra under Julian Wachner and with Charlotte Symphony under Christopher Warren-Green, debuted Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* with Symphony Nova Scotia under conductor Jeff Joudrey, returned to Beethoven’s Symphony No.9with Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra conducted by Krzysztof Urbański, and reprised Vaughan-Williams’ *Dona Nobis Pacem* with Charlotte Symphony under Christopher Warren-Green.

Okulitch’s career first garnered national attention in the original cast of Baz Luhrmann’s Tony Award-winning Broadway production of *La bohème*. His first solo recording, *The New American Art Song*, was released on GPR Records in 2011 and features world premieres by Ricky Ian Gordon, Jake Heggie, Lowell Liebermann and Glen Roven who all accompany Okulitch on the piano. Simultaneous with the record release, this programme was performed in concert at Carnegie Hall.

Daniel attended the Oberlin Conservatory and continued his studies at the Cincinnati Conservatory. During these years he apprenticed with the Des Moines Metro Opera, Cincinnati Opera, and in San Francisco Opera Merola Programme and was the recipient of numerous awards and prizes, including first prize from the George London Foundation and a Sullivan Foundation award.