

New Zealander, Simon O'Neill is one of the finest helden-tenors on the international stage. He has frequently performed with the Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Berlin, Hamburg Vienna and Bayerische Staatsoper, Paris Opera, Teatro alla Scala and the Bayreuth, Salzburg, Edinburgh and BBC Proms Festivals, appearing with a number of illustrious conductors including Daniel Barenboim, Sir Simon Rattle, James Levine, Riccardo Muti, Valery Gergiev, Sir Antonio Pappano, Pierre Boulez, Sir Mark Elder, Sir Colin Davis, Edo de Waart, Kent Nagano, Fabio Luisi, Sir Donald Runnicles, Sir Simon Rattle, Christian Thielemann, Jaap van Zweden, Daniel Harding, Simone Young, Andris Nelsons, Pietari Inkinen, Esa Pekka Salonen and Gustavo Dudamel.

Simon's performances as Siegmund in *Die Walküre* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden with Pappano, Teatro alla Scala and Berlin Staatsoper with Barenboim, at the Metropolitan Opera with Runnicles in the celebrated Otto Schenk production returning with Luisi in the Lepage Ring Cycle and in the Götz Friedrich production at Deutsche Oper Berlin with Rattle were performed to wide critical acclaim. He was described in the international press as "an exemplary Siegmund, terrific of voice", "THE Wagnerian tenor of his generation" and "a turbo-charged tenor"

Most recently, Simon performed the title role in *Tristan und Isolde* at Staatsoper Hamburg under Kent Nagano and returned to the Opéra National de Paris as Loge in the new Calixto Bieito production of *Das Rheingold* with Heras-Casado. He also performed Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* in Lyon, Düsseldorf, Strasbourg, and Zurich. This season, he takes on the title role of Siegfried in concert with the Sydney Symphony and Simone Young, followed by performances of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. He returned to the Hangzhou Philharmonic for Siegfried in *Götterdämmerung*, makes his South American debut as Tristan at Teatro Municipal de São Paulo and returns to Paris for the Ring Cycle.

On the concert stage, Simon tours a program of Wagner scenes and arias with Pietari Inkinen and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, performs *Das Lied von der Erde* in Sydney and Parma, and performs the solo tenor in Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* at the Reykjavik Arts Festival. Simon is delighted to make his English National Opera debut as Jimmy McIntyre in Kurt Weill's *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*. Other recent highlights include performances as Parsifal at both the Bayerische Staatsoper and Opéra National de Paris. He sang Siegmund in *Die Walküre* for Oper Leipzig and appeared in the title role of *Tristan und Isolde* with San Francisco Opera under Eun Sun Kim, as well as in concert with the Auckland Philharmonia conducted by Giordano Bellincampi. With the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, he performed Florestan in *Fidelio* under Simone Young, and sang Boris in *Katya Kabanova* with the London Symphony Orchestra. He performed Siegfried in concert with the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks and Sir Simon Rattle, and later with Sinfonieorchester Basel under Sir Mark Elder.

Simon appeared as soloist in the world premiere of Victoria Kelly's award-winning Requiem with the Auckland Philharmonia, later collaborating with Neil Finn of Crowded House. Last season, he returned to San Francisco Opera in the title role of Lohengrin under Eun Sun Kim, and performed Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde and Symphony No. 8 in Bremen, Dunedin, and Madrid. Simon made his role debut as Loge in Das Rheingold with the Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel, performed Schoenberg's Gurre-Lieder with the Sydney Symphony and Simone Young, and toured Europe with the NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchester under Alan Gilbert. He also sang Gurre-Lieder with the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks under Rattle, and Mahler's Symphony No. 8 with Jukka-Pekka Saraste and the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra.

Notable debuts have included; the Royal Opera House (2005) Jenik in The Bartered Bride with Mackerras, the Salzburg Festival (2005) in Die Zauberflöte with Muti, the Metropolitan Opera (2006) as the Gran Sacerdote in Idomeneo with Levine, Opera Australia (2009) as Sergei in Shostakovich's Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk with Armstrong, Siegmund in Die Walküre at Teatro alla Scala (2010), the Staatsoper unter den Linden, Berlin with Barenboim and the Bayerische Staatsoper with Nagano (2013), Chairman Mao in Nixon in China with Renes with the San Francisco Opera (2012), and the Wiener Staatsoper (2012) in the title role of Parsifal with Thielemann.

Simon made his Bayreuth Festival debut in the title of Lohengrin in the new Hans Neuenfels production with Andris Nelsons and returned as Parsifal in the celebrated Stefan Herheim production with Daniele Gatti. Other notable engagements have included opening La Scala's season as Siegmund in Die Walküre with Barenboim and with the Wiener Staatsoper with Welser-Möst. He returned as Siegmund in the celebrated Keith Warner Royal Opera House, Covent Garden Ring Cycle where he also performed; Lohengrin, Fidelio, Stolzing in Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg and the title role of Parsifal. He made his debut with the Hallé Orchestra in the title role of Wagner's Siegfried in concert with Sir Mark Elder at the Edinburgh Festival and with Jaap van Zweden with the Hong Kong Philharmonic – both these performances have been released on CD. He made his debut as Der Kaiser in Die Frau ohne Schatten at the Berlin Staatsoper with Simone Young and as the Tambourmajor in Wozzeck with Levine at the Metropolitan Opera.

At extremely short notice Simon made his role debut in the title role of Verdi's Otello in concert at the Barbican with the London Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Sir Colin Davis (2009). His performance was widely acclaimed by critics, who described his musical and dramatic portrayal of the infamous protagonist as "thrilling", "a triumph", "an immense performance" "a tremendous debut in the title-role, giving notice that he is the best heroic tenor to emerge over the last decade." He has gone on to perform the role on stage in Houston, Boston, Auckland and Sydney.

Simon has appeared in many of the world's leading concert halls including Carnegie Hall for *Das Lied von der Erde* with James Levine and The Met Orchestra and *Missa Solemnis* with the Boston Symphony, *Florestan* in *Fidelio* at both the Salzburg Festival and BBC Proms with Barenboim and with the National Symphony Orchestra and *Eschenbach* at the Kennedy Center, *Gurrelieder* in the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall and Edinburgh Festival with Rattle and Runnicles, *Das Lied von der Erde*, *Fidelio* and *Parsifal* in concert at Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia with Pappano and Gatti, *Parsifal* Act 3 with Nelsons and the Bayerischer Rundfunks Orchestra at the Munich Herkulesaal, *Der Freischütz* with Sir Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra, Janacek's *Glagolitic Mass* with Dutoit at Tokyo's NHK Hall and with Boulez in the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, Mahler's *Symphony No.8* at the Sydney Opera House with Ashkenazy and Beethoven's *Symphony No.9* for the reopening of London's Royal Festival Hall. He also had the honour of touring Europe with Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra performing Act I *Die Walküre* in concert, performing complete the Ring Cycle with the Staatskapelle Berlin with Barenboim at the BBC Proms and Act 1 in concert with the Berlin Philharmonic and Sir Simon Rattle at the Philharmonie. Simon made his debut with the New York Philharmonic as Siegmund in *Die Walküre* Act one in concert with Jaap van Zweden.

His discography includes his 'Best Classical Tui' award winning lieder CD is titled *Distant Beloved* with pianist Terence Dennis and the Decca label; his debut solo award winning album; *Father and Son*, *Wagner Scenes and Arias* (*Lohengrin*, *Parsifal*, *Siegfried* and *Siegfried*) with Pietari Inkinen and the NZSO for EMI. His recording, as tenor soloist in Mahler's *Symphony No.8* with Gustavo Dudamel the Los Angeles Philharmonic for Deutsche Grammophon won the Grammy Award.

Simon has recorded the title role of *Siegfried* with three orchestras: Sir Simon Rattle and the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks (2023), the Hallé Orchestra and Sir Mark Elder (2020) and with Jaap van Zweden for the Hong Kong Philharmonic Ring Cycle recording for Naxos (2018). His recent LSO Live recording of *Boris* in Janacek's *Katya Kabanova* with the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Simon Rattle is receiving rave reviews. Other recordings include; *Die Walküre* on Blu-ray and DVD with Daniel Barenboim from La Scala, the title role of *Parsifal* on Blu-ray and DVD with Sir Antonio Pappano from Covent Garden, the title role of *Otello* and *Max* in *Der Freischütz* with Sir Colin Davis for LSO Live, *Die Zauberflöte* for the Salzburg Festival Mozart 25 DVD with Riccardo Muti, Mahler's *Symphony No.8* with Valery Gergiev and the Munich Philharmonic and with Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Sydney Symphony, Beethoven *Symphony No.9* with Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie and Paavo Järvi and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra with Kent Nagano, Frank Martin's *Der Sturm* with the Netherlands Radio Symphony and Thierry Fischer and Chausson's *Le Roi Arthus* with Leon Botstein and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He is honoured to appear alongside the greatest singers in the EMI release of *Voices of German Opera*.

Simon became an Officer of New Zealand Order of Merit in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours list, he is an alumnus and holds a Doctor of Music (Honoris Causa) from Victoria University of Wellington and is an alumnus of the University of Otago, the Manhattan School of Music and the Juilliard Opera Center. He is a Fulbright Scholar, was awarded the 2005 Arts Laureate of New Zealand and was a grand finalist in the 2002 Metropolitan Opera National Auditions returning as guest artist in 2007. He also appears on the 1998 New Zealand one-dollar performing arts postage stamp.