

ALLAN CLAYTON MBE

TENOR

‘Allan Clayton was at his very best, giving a bizarre but completely credible mix of the goofiness we’ve seen from him in roles like *Candide*, the hard edge of a *Peter Grimes* and absolute beauty of voice in his lyrical moments’

Bachtrack

The flexibility and consistency of Allan Clayton’s vocal range, combined with a magnetic stage presence, have led to international acclaim in music from Baroque to contemporary, his breadth demonstrated in recent title roles ranging from *Peter Grimes* and *Hamlet* to *Faust* and *Candide*, and a discography running from Handel to Dean. His impact was most recently recognised with an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera for the 2025 world premiere of Mark-Anthony Turnage’s *Festen* at Royal Opera House.

In demand for title roles at leading opera houses around the world, he gave the US premiere of Brett Dean’s *Hamlet* at Metropolitan Opera in 2022, followed by a definitive interpretation of *Peter Grimes* there and at Teatro Real Madrid, as well as at London’s Royal Opera, where he also opened the 2023–24 season in the title role in *Jephtha*. He returns to *Peter Grimes* at Frankfurt Opera and Munich Opera during the 2026–27 season, as well as making his role debut as King Charles VII in Tchaikovsky’s *The Maid of Orleans* with Netherlands Opera.

Other operatic roles include Weill’s *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* at Komische Oper Berlin, Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Jupiter in *Semele* and the title role in *Candide*. He has also sung David in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at the Royal Opera House and Bayerische Staatsoper and Ferdinand in *Miranda* at Paris’s Opéra Comique.

On the concert platform, Clayton has appeared at the BBC Proms many times since his first visit in 2008, most recently in 2025 with the world premiere of Tom Coult’s *Monologues for the Curious*, and previously in Vaughan Williams’ *Pastoral Symphony*, Britten’s *War Requiem*, Berlioz’s *L’enfance du Christ*, Stravinsky’s *Oedipus Rex* and Handel’s *Samson*. He made his debut with Vienna Philharmonic in a concert performance of *Oedipus Rex* at the 2025 Salzburg Festival, and this season joins Orchestre National de France in Schumann’s *Le Paradis et la Péri*.

In London’s Barbican Hall, he has sung in *The Dream of Gerontius* and Britten’s *Spring Symphony* with London Symphony Orchestra under Sir Mark Elder and Sir Simon Rattle respectively, and in Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* with BBC Symphony Orchestra and Sakari Oramo. He also performed a

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dramatic staging of Schubert's *Winterreise* there, incorporating the work of Australian painter Fred Williams, which he also toured Australia.

He is a frequent visitor to Wigmore Hall and gives lied recitals around the world, with repertoire including works such as Schubert's *Winterreise* and *Die schöne Müllerin*, Vaughan Williams' *On Wenlock Edge*, and songs by Strauss, Wolf, Duparc and Tippett. Several composers have written song cycles specifically with his voice in mind, including Mark-Anthony Turnage with *Refugee*, Josephine Stephenson with *Une saison en enfer*, and Tom Coult with *Monologues for the Curious*. An advocate of contemporary music, he has appeared in world premieres of George Benjamin's *Written on Skin*, Jonathan Dove's *The Adventures of Pinocchio* and Gerald Barry's *Alice's Adventures Underground*.

Discography

Liszt: The Complete Songs Vol V (Hyperion)
Handel: *Acis and Galatea* (Chandos)
Where'er you walk: Arias for Handel's favourite tenor (Signum Classics)
Britten: *Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings* (Linn Records)
Purcell/Britten: *Songs* (Champs Hill)
Songs to the Moon with the Myrthen Ensemble (Signum Classics)
Mozart: *Zaide* (Signum Classics)
Mendelssohn: *Complete Songs* (Champs Hill)
Mozart: *Die Schuldigkeit des ersten gebots* (Signum Classics)
Handel: *Belshazzar* (Les Arts Florissants Edition)
Benjamin: *Written on Skin* (Nimbus Records)
Britten: *Saint Nicholas* (Hyperion)
Britten: *Songs Vol. 2* (Onyx)
Verdi: *Otello* (LSO Live)
Handel: *Messiah* (Hyperion)
Handel: *Joshua* (Somm)
Lukaszewski: *Via Crucis* (Hyperion)
Handel: *Messiah* (Warner Classics)
Insomnia: *Gurney, Britten, John Lennon with Aurora Orchestra* (Warner Classics)

Musical collaborations

Paul Lewis, Graham Johnson, Malcolm Martineau, Roger Vignoles, Julius Drake, James Baillieu, Simon Lepper, Joseph Middleton, Sophie Bevan, James Newby and Louise Alder

Previous festival appearances

Adelaide, Cheltenham, Aldeburgh, Perth, Edinburgh

Awards

2025 Olivier Award for Outstanding Contribution to Opera (*Festen* Royal Opera House);

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Whatsonstage Award for Excellence in Opera 2018; Royal Philharmonic Society Singer Award 2018; Glyndebourne's John Christie Award 2008; Fellow of the Royal Academy of Music; BBC New Generation Artist 2007–9; Queen's Commendation for Excellence; Borletti-Buitoni Trust Fellowship; MBE in the Queen's 2021 Birthday Honours list

Studies

St John's College, Cambridge; Royal Academy of Music