

ALLAN CLAYTON

TENOR

‘The company has a star on its hands in the tenor Allan Clayton... his voice exemplifies the essence of opera as a theatrical extremity of expression’

Joshua Barone, The New York Times

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. This breadth is demonstrated in recent title roles ranging from Peter Grimes and Hamlet to Faust and Candide, and a discography running from Handel to Brett 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 leading roles at prominent opera houses around the world, this season Clayton makes his title-role debut in *Idomeneo* at Paris Opera, returns to Metropolitan Opera for *Jenůfa*, and sings in *Death in Venice* at Bayerisches Staatsoper. Last season he made role debuts as King Charles VII in Tchaikovsky’s *The Maid of Orleans* with Netherlands Opera and Captain Vere in *Billy Budd* at Glyndebourne. He is widely regarded as the definitive interpreter of the title role of *Peter Grimes*, following performances at Teatro Real Madrid, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Metropolitan Opera and Paris Opera. Previously, he inhabited the title role of Brett Dean’s *Hamlet* at Glyndebourne Festival, with further productions at Metropolitan Opera, Bayerisches Staatsoper and Adelaide Festival.

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 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*. The same year, he made his Vienna Philharmonic debut in a concert performance of *Oedipus Rex* at Salzburg Festival. In the 2026–27 season he sings in Britten’s *War Requiem* with London Philharmonic Orchestra, and with RAI Orchestra in both Milan and Torino, and makes his debut with Berlin Philharmonic in Berlioz’s *L’enfance du Christ*.

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MAESTROARTS

He 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. He is a frequent visitor to London's Wigmore Hall and in the coming season holds a Britten residency and gives a Schubert cycle with pianist Paul Lewis.

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

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

MAESTRO*ARTS*

Previous festival appearances

Adelaide, Cheltenham, Aldeburgh, Perth, Edinburgh

Awards

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