

**Tenor Edgaras Montvidas on stage, cinema and TV:
Sir David McVicar's new production of Mozart's *Die Entführung
aus dem Serail* at Glyndebourne & a new landmark BBC Two
documentary on *La Traviata***

Die Entführung aus dem Serail
13 June - 10 August 2015 - Glyndebourne Festival
Cinema Relay on 19 July with free live streaming (for a week)

BBC Two Documentary
La Traviata: Love, Death and Divas
Summer 2015

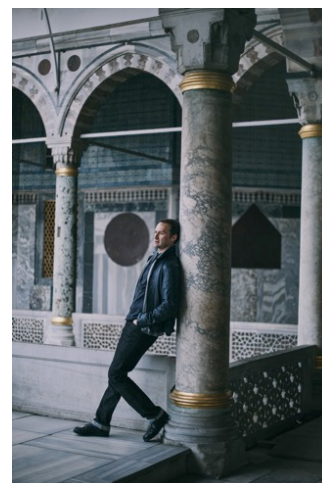


“Edgaras Montvidas - what a find!”
Radio 3, CD Review 2015

Robin Ticciati Conductor
Sir David McVicar Director
Vicki Mortimer Designer | Andrew George Choreographer
Paule Constable Lighting Designer

Edgaras Montvidas Belmonte
Sally Matthews Konstanze | Tobias Kehrer Osmin
Mari Eriksmoen Blonde | Brenden Gunnell Pedrillo
Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment | The Glyndebourne Chorus

Young Lithuanian tenor **Edgaras Montvidas** returns to **Glyndebourne Festival** this summer to sing **Belmonte** in Sir David McVicar's new production of Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* (*The Abduction in the Seraglio*) set in an Ottoman harem. The new production will be relayed into cinemas on 19th July alongside live streaming through Glyndebourne's website, made available for free for a week. The production will also be performed semi-staged at the BBC Proms on 14 August. On TV in the summer, Edgaras Montvidas stars in a new landmark music documentary *La Traviata: Love, Death and Divas* on BBC Two. As part of a season across BBC Two, BBC Four and BBC Radio 3 in June and July celebrating the classical voice in



the BBC's Year of Song of Dance, the documentary tells the dramatic story of *La Traviata's* London premiere in 1856 and its stormy aftermath. Presented by Professor Amanda Vickery and Radio 3 broadcaster Tom Service, the documentary includes excerpts from the opera, featuring Edgaras Montvidas as Alfredo, specially shot for the film in collaboration with Opera North.

Following the critical success for his role in *Onegin* at the Festival last year, Montvidas returns to star alongside his abducted love Konstanze sung by **Sally Matthews** with the Festival's associate orchestra **The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment** conducted by **Robin Ticciati**.

Edgaras Montvidas has been based in London since being selected for the first Young Artist Programme at the Royal Opera House a decade ago. In his first year in the capital, he was catapulted into the London scene and featured in Sam Taylor Wood's exhibition *Mute* at White Cube Gallery. He quickly made the headlines stepping in at the last minute for an indisposed Nemorino in Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* at the Coliseum and making ENO history by singing in Italian for the first time in several decades, as there was no time to re-learn the part with the new English translation. Montvidas has since established himself at the world's leading opera houses in the lyric tenor roles from Mozart to Verdi. He has collaborated previously with David McVicar on *Rake's Progress* at Scottish Opera.

As Edgaras Montvidas explains:

"I'm looking forward to working with David again on this new production which will evoke the splendours of Ottoman palaces and gardens. I've just returned from a week's holiday in Istanbul where I marvelled at the Ottoman architecture. I can't wait to be back at Glyndebourne this summer."

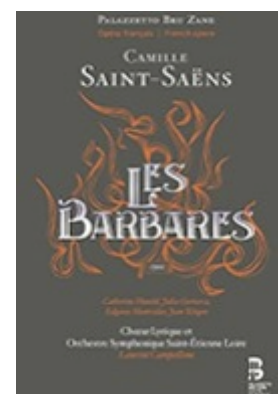
Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* (commissioned by Emperor Joseph II and premiered in Vienna in 1782) was the first opera in the German language to be constructed as a Singspiel, a lighter Germanic theatrical form in which spoken and sung text alternate. During a period when the Ottoman Empire loomed on the Eastern borders of Europe, lending more than a piquant influence to Viennese cultural life, Mozart embellished his score with exotic flavours and percussive rhythms. Virtues of tolerance and fidelity become a metaphor for the combat between liberty of Enlightenment Europe and the despotic tyranny of Ottoman rule - Belmonte's quest to deliver the abducted Konstanze from Selim's yoke resounded throughout Europe.

Mozart's Singspiel has been frequently performed at Glyndebourne Festival - after its pivotal production in 1935 - and this year's production is the 130th performance at the festival itself.

Edgaras Montvidas is featured on **Palazzetto Bru Zane's** newly released CD of Saint-Saëns' *Les Barbares* with the **Chœur Lyrique et Orchestre Symphonique Saint-Étienne Loire**. It is a tale of love between Marcomir, the leader of the marauding Nordic hordes (Edgaras Montvidas) with the vestal virgin Floria (Catherine Hunold).

Future projects in Germany:

Edgaras returns to Germany to perform the title role in *The Tales of Hoffman* at the Komischer Oper Berlin in a production by Barrie Kosky from October 2015 to February 2016 and a revival of *Die Fledermaus* at the Bayerischer Staatsoper conducted by Kirill Petrenko from December 2015 to January 2016. On 31st January in Munich, he will perform the title role in Godard's forgotten opera *Dante* for the



next recording with Palazzetto Bruzane, before a second performance in Versailles on 2 February 2016.

The Tales of Hoffman

Komische Oper Berlin
Conductor Stefan Blunier
Director Barrie Kosky

October 2015: 2, 7, 11, 14, 18, 25

November 2015: 7, 27

January 2016: 24

February 2016: 14, 17

Die Fledermaus

Bayerischer Staatsoper
Conductor Kirill Petrenko
December 2015: 25, 31
January 2016: 1, 4, 6, 8

Edgaras Montvidas

Lithuanian tenor **Edgaras Montvidas** was educated in Vilnius and from 2001-2003 he was a member of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden Young Artists Programme, where he sang Alfredo *La Traviata*, Arminio in Verdi *I Masnadieri*, Marcellus and Laertes in Thomas *Hamlet* and Fenton *Falstaff*.



Plans this season and beyond include Belmonte for Glyndebourne Festival Opera; Lensky *Onegin* for the Grande Théâtre de Genève; Verdi *Requiem* with the Svetlanov Symphony Orchestra, Moscow and Marko Boemi; the title role *The Tales of Hoffman* in a new production by Barrie Kosky for Komische Oper Berlin; Don Ottavio for Santa Fe Opera; Flamand in Strauss *Capriccio* for La Monnaie, Brussels; Alfred *Die Fledermaus* for Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich and in concert: the

title role in Donizetti *Roberto Devereux* with the Russian National Orchestra and Antonini Fogliani; Szymanowski *King Roger* with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Charles Dutoit and the title role in Benjamin Godard *Dante* on a European tour and recording conducted by Herve Niquet.

Recent opera appearances have included Lensky for Glyndebourne Festival Opera and Bayerische Staatsoper Munich; Belmonte for Bayerische Staatsoper, Hamburg Opera and Netherlands Opera; Nemorino *L'elisir d'amore* for ENO and Scottish Opera for whom Edgaras has also sung Duke *Rigoletto* and Tom Rakewell *The Rake's Progress*; Ruggero *La Rondine* for Leipzig Opera; Prunier *La Rondine* for The Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Alfredo, Fisherman *Le Rossignol* and Lensky for Lyon Opera; Tebaldo *I Capuleti e I Montecchi* for Opera North; Fisherman for Netherlands Opera and the Aix-en-Provence Festival; Rinuccio *Gianni Schicchi* for Cincinatti Opera; Arbace in Mozart *Idomeneo* for Netherlands Opera and in concert and recording Helios in Félicien David *Herulaneum* with the Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra and Hervé Niquet.

From 2004-6 he was a member of the ensemble of Frankfurt Opera where roles included Des Grieux *Manon*, Belmonte *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, Tamino *Die Zauberflöte*, Don Ottavio *Don Giovanni*, Alfredo and Macduff *Macbeth*.

He has made a number of appearances at the BBC Proms including singing The Voice of the Forge in de Falla *La Vida Breve* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, The Shepherd in Stravinsky *Oedipus Rex* and the Young Lover in Puccini's *Il Tabarro* with the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra.

Edgaras has recently been presented with the Lithuanian Order of Merit medal by President Dalia Grybauskaite and in 2009 was awarded the Theatre Award 'The Gold Cross of the Stage' in Lithuania for his performances as Werther.

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For more information about BBC Two's La Traviata: Love, Death and Divas please contact:

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