



KHANYISO GWENXANE **TENOR**

Tall and good-looking, Gwenxane showed attractive timbre and a good sense of line and decoration, ... clearly a considerable talent to watch... Opera News, 27 September 2022

Khanyiso Gwenxane made his US debut singing the title role in Rossini's *Otello* at Opera Philadelphia in 2022 and will return to this company in 2025. The same year he performed Admeto in Gluck's *Alceste* at Bayreuth's Markgräfliches Opernhaus during the International Gluck Festival, where he will return for the title role in Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* in May 2024. In 2023, he returned to Semperoper Dresden for Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* and made his debut at Staatstheater Darmstadt.

Born in South Africa, he started a promising career after reaching the final of the renowned Belvedere Singing Competition in 2014. He discovered his love for music at the age of six as a boy soprano in the school choir. He sang in various national singing competitions and after leaving school became a member of Portobello Productions, an international production company that toured worldwide with a South African version of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, in which he performed the role of Impempe Yomlingo in London's West End in 2007 and 2008. From 2009 he studied singing with a focus on opera at Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria with Pierre du Toit. He continued his vocal training at the South African College of Music in Cape Town with George Stevens and Kamal Khan, finishing his studies in 2014 with a postgraduate diploma. As part of a scholarship, he supplemented his musical training with a master's degree in opera at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

While still a student, the young tenor sang Chevalier Belfiore in Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims* and Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. He was a member of the Young Ensemble of Semperoper Dresden from 2016 to 2018. In 2016, he made his debut at Kungliga Operan in Stockholm as Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, followed by his role debut as Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore* at the New Generation Festival in Florence in 2017. In 2018, he performed Tito in a new production of Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* Staatstheater Braunschweig. Khanyiso Gwenxane has worked with directors including David Bösch, Jürgen Flimm, Dietrich Hildorf, Manuel Schmitt, Michael Schulz, Keith Warner and Matthew Wilde.

A member of Musiktheater im Revier in Gelsenkirchen since the 2018/19 season, his repertoire includes Don José in Bizet's *Carmen*, Nadir in Bizet's *Les pêcheurs de perles*, Ernesto in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, Janek in Janáček's *Makropulos Case*, Lensky in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and Froh in Wagner's *Das Rheingold* as well as in the title roles in Orfeo in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* and Rossini's *Otello*.

As a concert soloist Khanyiso Gwenxane has sung Beethoven's *Symphony N° 9*, Handel's *Messiah*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, Mendelssohn's *Lobgesang*, and Schubert's *Magnificat in C*.

He performed under the baton of conductors including Jonathan Darlington, Srba Dinić, Michael Hofstetter, Marek Janowski, Tomáš Netopil, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Lawrence Renes, Ivan Repušić, Valtteri Rauhala, Corrado Rovaris, and Omer Meir Wellber - accompanied by orchestras including Dresdner Philharmonie, Kungliga Hovkapellet Stockholm, Neue Philharmonie Westfalen, The Opera Philadelphia Orchestra, Orchester opery Divadlo Josefa Kajetána Tyla Plzen, Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, and Staatsorchester Braunschweig.

Khanyiso Gwenxane's discography includes a recording of Puccini's *Il tabarro* with the Dresdner Philharmonie conducted by Marek Janowski.