



KHANYISO GWENXANE **TENOR**

As Tito, the South African tenor Khanyiso Gwenxane sang sublimely and showed the character's merciful aspect throughout, with soothing gestures and a gentle demeanour. Opera & Opera News, August 2024

At Opera Philadelphia Khanyiso Gwenxane made his US debut in the title role in Rossini's *Otello* in 2022, and returned in 2025 as Don Ottavio in a new production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. In 2022, he made his debut at International Gluck Festival, singing Admeto in Gluck's *Alceste* and has sung the title role in Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* there in 2024.

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.

As a student, the tenor sang Chevalier Belfiore in Rossini's *Il viaggio a Reims* and Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. 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, a part he has sung at Semperoper Dresden in 2023. In 2018, he performed Tito in a new production of Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* Staatstheater Braunschweig and made his debut at Staatstheater Darmstadt in 2023, singing Lenski in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*.

A member of Musiktheater im Revier in Gelsenkirchen since the 2018/19 season, his repertoire includes Bizet's Don José in *Carmen* and Nadir in *Les pêcheurs de perles*, Ernesto in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, Rodolfo in Puccini's *La bohème*, Fenton in Verdi's *Falstaff*, Steuermann in Wagner's *Der fliegende Holländer*, as well as in the title roles in Orfeo in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* and Rossini's *Otello*. He has worked with directors including David Bösch, Jürgen Flimm, Dietrich Hilsdorf, Manuel Schmitt, Michael Schulz, Keith Warner and Matthew Wilde.

Khanyiso Gwenxane performed under the baton of conductors including Jonathan Darlington, Gaetano d'Espinosa, Srba Dinić, Michael Hofstetter, Marek Janowski, Tomaš Netopil, Andrés Orozco-Estrada, Lawrence Renes, Ivan Repušić, Valtteri Rauhalampi, Corrado Rovaris, Omer Meir Wellber and Johannes Zahn – accompanied by orchestras including Dresdner Philharmonie, Kungliga Hovkapellet Stockholm, Neue Philharmonie Westfalen, Orchester opery Divadlo Josefa Kajetána Tyla Plzeň, Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, Staatsorchester Braunschweig and Darmstadt, as well as The Opera Philadelphia Orchestra.

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