



James Schouten - tenor

British-Dutch-Canadian tenor James Schouten is emerging as a compelling jugendlich Heldentenor, combining a powerful, ringing upper register with dramatic intensity, clear text and a strong instinct for character.



His repertoire increasingly centres on Wagner, Strauss, Britten and Janáček, while retaining flexibility across Mozart, Verdi and French repertoire. A former high baritone, he transitioned to tenor in 2019.

Recent engagements have marked a significant step forward in James's operatic career. In 2026 he sang Froh in Wagner's *Das Rheingold* and Lerma in Verdi's *Don Carlo* for Grange Park Opera; Narraboth in Strauss's *Salome* for Regents Opera; Boris Grigorjevič in Janáček's *Káťa Kabanová* for New Palace Opera; and Prologue/Peter Quint in Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* at the Leric Opera Festival in Italy.

His Wagner repertoire is developing rapidly. He has sung Loge in *Das Rheingold* for Regents Opera and covered Zorn/Moser in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. Forthcoming engagements include the title role in *Parsifal* for Regents Opera in 2027.

James attracted particular attention as Loge in Regents Opera's *Das Rheingold*. The Guardian praised his “sinuous and articulate Loge”, while Bachtrack described him as the “linchpin of the opera”. Classical Source called the performance “an outstanding assumption on any terms” and identified him as a singer to watch.

In 2024 James won First Prize and the Audience Prize at the Mastersingers Wagner Vocal Competition. Sir John Tomlinson singled out his performance of Loge for its command of text, German, character, voice and dramatic communication.

Other operatic repertoire includes Bacchus in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Oedipus in *Oedipus Rex*, the title role in *Idomeneo*, Don José in *Carmen*, Le Prince Charmant in *Cendrillon*, Alfred in *Die Fledermaus*, Laca in *Jenůfa* and multiple roles in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. On the concert platform his repertoire includes Dvořák's *Stabat Mater*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* and Mozart's *Requiem*.

James completed an MMus in Opera at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, following postgraduate studies in Vocal Performance at the Royal College of Music and a BMus at Goldsmiths, University of London. He has also been a Tenor Scholar at the Oxenfoord International Summer School and currently studies with Richard Berkley-Steele.

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