



Sunnyboy Dladla

Tenor

Sunnyboy Dladla was born in the township of Piet Retief in KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa.

He made his successful BBC Proms debut in the 2018 festival with the London Symphony Orchestra and Sir Simon Rattle, in the roles of Bete/Le petit vieillard/La théière/La rainette in Ravel *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, after which Richard Morrison wrote in *The Times* '... a fine cast produced a host of terrific cameos, with Jane Archibald and Sunnyboy Dladla particularly catching the ear'. He later reprised these roles with the LSO and Rattle at the Lucerne Festival; and was then invited to return to the 2019 Proms to sing Mozart *Requiem* with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Nathalie Stutzmann.

Since 2018/19 he has been a member of the Ensemble at Theater Dortmund where his roles include Almaviva; Pong *Turandot*; Alphonse in Auber *La Muette de Portici*; and Alvaro in Spontini *Fernand Cortez*. Future plans include Almaviva for Staatsoper Hannover; Xailoun in Offenbach *Barkouf* for Oper Köln; and Pang *Turandot* for Oper in Steinbruch, Esterhazy.

For the 2012/13 and 2013/14 seasons he was a member of the International Opera Studio of Zurich Opera and roles for the main house included Arturo in Donizetti *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Dorvil in Rossini *La Scala di Seta*, Nick in Puccini *La Fanciulla del West*, 1. Junger Offizier in Zimmermann *Die Soldaten* and Kutscher and Vorarbeiter in Shostakovich *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*.

Since leaving the studio in 2014 Sunnyboy has sung Paolino in Cimarosa *Il Matrimonio Segreto* and Il Conte di Libenskof *Il viaggio a Reims* for Zurich Opera; Belfiore in Rossini *Il viaggio a Reims* with Alberto Zedda for the Accademia Rossiniana at the Pesaro Rossini Festival; Count Almaviva for Stuttgart Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin and Den Norske Opera; and Basilio and Curzio in Mozart *Le Nozze di Figaro* at Theater an der Wien, conducted by Marc Minkowski. More recently he has sung Don Ramiro in Rossini *La Cenerentola* for Opera North, Oper Leipzig and Stuttgart Opera; the roles of Osiride (Bregenz Festival) and Aronne (Oper Köln) in Rossini *Mosè in Egitto*; and the roles of Andrès / Cochenille / Frantz / Pitichinaccio in *Tales of Hoffmann* in his debut with Dutch National Opera. Recent concerts include *Carmina Burana* with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and at the Grand Teton Music Festival in the USA, both with Donald Runnicles.

He made his US debut singing Handel *Messiah* with the National Symphony Orchestra, Washington and Rolf Beck, which resulted in an immediate re-invitation to sing Mozart *Requiem* the following year with Christoph Eschenbach. Other concert performances include Schumann *Missa Sacra in C Min* at the Schleswig-Holstein Festival with Christopher Hogwood, a New Year Rossini Gala at Komische Oper, *Carmina Burana* and *Messiah* in Bucharest conducted by Cristian Macelaru, and a concert with Cecilia Bartoli in Bozar, Brussels, with repertoire by Mozart, Rossini and Donizetti.