



Benjamin Hulett • Prom 14

Uriel, *The Creation*

Benjamin Hulett's Proms performance on 29 July will be far from the first time that the young British tenor has performed as soloist in Haydn's great oratorio *The Creation*. 'I've sung it with choral societies and symphony orchestras, in opera houses and churches – even in the Haydnsaal at Esterházy Castle, where Haydn himself worked.' What keeps bringing him back to the work? 'Its joy, its beauty and its humour – the work really endears itself to audiences and performers through those aspects.'

Is *The Creation* in any sense operatic, or does it at least draw on his opera training? 'Although we as soloists are given the names of angels, we actually function more as commentators or narrators on the Creation process. The characterisation of my role, the angel Uriel, comes from the interplay between voice and orchestra – sometimes I'm responding to a new musical depiction in the ensemble, and sometimes I'm singing text to which the orchestra responds.' How does he compare his experiences in the opera house with those on concert stages? 'There are so many differences! In concert, we're able to present our own personalities, or what we want the audience to see, and to enjoy engaging directly with an audience – in this case, to allow the Prommers to share a smile with us, and feel the electricity of the Royal Albert Hall.'