



Credit: Andrew Wilkinson

Barnaby Smith

Review Season 2026

"Sublime performance...Smith, conducting with relaxed gestures, never let the tension flag or forgot the overall journey. The outbursts of joy, the arrival of peace felt entirely natural."

The Times, 5* (Conducting - Mass in B Minor)

"Smith's instrument is sweet, intense and bursting with colours...shapely phrases, like his blistering speed and crisp passage in 'Venti turbini' (Rinaldo), are indebted to muscle and musicianship alike"

BBC Music Magazine (Countertenor Soloist - 'Handel' with Ilyria Consort)

"Conductor Barnaby Smith had guided his excellent singers through some altogether more muscular, unaccompanied compositions...immaculately presented"

The Observer (Conducting - The Lost Birds)

"He trained with Andreas Scholl, whose influence shows in his even steadiness of tone and well-nigh faultless sense of both legato and phrasing in the slower arias...a warm sweetness in his upper registers."

Gramophone (Countertenor Soloist - 'Handel' with Ilyria Consort)

"The wonder of our seas and oceans was brought out in the many colours of this marvellous soundscape by the QSO, under the baton of Barnaby Smith, who conducted with abundant energy and great attention to detail."

ArtsHub, 5* (Conducting - The Lost Birds)

"This is a disc of undeniably great beauty...Worth noting the purity of Smith's uppermost register, and the firmness of his lowermost...This is a phenomenal performance"

Classical Explorer (Countertenor Soloist - 'Bach' with Ilyria Consort)

<https://percius.co.uk/artists/barnaby-smith/>

"All conducted with infectious energy by Barnaby Smith...this Messiah rocked along with breathtaking fervour, but left space for contemplation...This first Messiah of the season was a winner."

The Observer, 5* (Conducting - Messiah)

"Barnaby Smith, a musical general who spearheaded all the musical endeavours and thus ensured quality in a class of its own...Jubilation and standing ovations at the close."

Kultur, Graz (Conducting - Messiah)

"Nothing is left to be desired...refined intonation and articulation...the concert becomes an act of devotion."

Wiesbadener Kurier (Conducting - Crown and Glory)

"Smith skilfully and expressively exploits the writhing vocal line and chromatic twists, which contrast with moments of clarity and lyricism...He seems really to get inside the aria and inhabit its sensibilities"

Opera Today (Countertenor Soloist - 'Bach' with Ilyria Consort)

"Barnaby Smith's conducting permits careful attention to textual clarity while maintaining appropriate emotional arc across the work's substantial duration."

AllMusic (Conducting - i carry your heart)

The main MC was Barnaby Smith...It's rare to hear a professional choir this large outside an opera house, and the sound they created was thrilling."

The Guardian (Conducting - VOCES8 at the Barbican Centre)



Credit: Andrew Wilkinson