



## Lawrence Zazzo *countertenor*

The American countertenor Lawrence Zazzo is one of the most outstanding singers of his generation. A native of Philadelphia and a graduate in both English and Music from Yale University and King's College, Cambridge, Lawrence made his operatic debut as Oberon ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** to great acclaim while completing his vocal studies at the Royal College of Music, London.

He has since appeared in many of the world's finest opera houses and concert halls. His opera roles include the title role in ***Giulio Cesare*** (Metropolitan Opera New York, Paris, Brussels, Seville, Bilbao), the title role in Gluck's ***Orfeo*** (Toronto, Netherlands), Oberon ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (Lyon, Toronto), Farnace ***Mitridate*** (Munich, Festival), the title role in ***Radamisto*** (English National Opera), Arsamene ***Serse*** (Theatre des Champs-Elysees, English National Opera),

Goffredo ***Rinaldo*** (Berlin Staatsoper, Opéra de Montpellier); Ottone ***Agrippina*** (Brussels, Frankfurt, Theatre de Champs-Elysees), Endimione ***La Calisto*** (Munich, Brussels, Paris), Giuliano in Cavalli's ***Eliogabalo*** (Brussels, Paris), Ottone ***L'incoronazione di Poppea*** (Berlin, Brussels, Munich, Vienna), and the title role in Handel's ***Sosarme*** (Sao Carlos, Lisbon).

Lawrence is also a keen advocate of 20<sup>th</sup> century and contemporary music. His Paris Opera debut was as Kreon in Liebermann's ***Medea***. He created the role of Trinculo in Thomas Ades' ***The Tempest*** at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden and has sung Sciarrino's ***Luci mie traditrici*** in Brussels, New York, and Rouen. He is closely associated with the role of Mascha in Peter Eötvös' ***Three Sisters*** which he has performed in several productions in Lyon, Brussels, Edinburgh, Vienna, and the Netherlands. He made his BBC Symphony Orchestra debut in their commission of Jonathan Dove's ***Hojoki***, sang the Refugee in Dove's ***Flight*** for the Glyndebourne Festival, and made his Wigmore recital debut with a programme of 20<sup>th</sup>-century American songs.

Lawrence has a working relationship with many distinguished conductors in the fields of Baroque and contemporary music, including René Jacobs, William Christie, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Christophe Rousset, John Nelson, Ivor Bolton, James Conlon, Harry Bicket, Joshua Rifkin, Christopher Hogwood, Peter Eötvös, Jean-Claude Malgoire, Trevor Pinnock, Jordi Savall, Harry Christophers, and Paul Goodwin. He was the first western countertenor invited to China to sing ***Messiah*** at the Shanghai Opera. His international concert career highlights include: ***Jephtha*** in Graz with Nikolaus Harnoncourt and ***Theodora*** in Halle with Trevor Pinnock, the title roles of Handel's ***Lotario*** and ***Riccardo Primo*** with the Kammerorchester Basel in a European tour and recording with Paul Goodwin, ***Messiah*** with René Jacobs and the Freiburger Barockorchester and in Notre Dame Cathedral with John Nelson and L'ensemble orchestrale de Paris, Bach ***Lutheran Masses*** under Joshua Rifkin in Leipzig, the ***St. Matthew Passion*** in Ambronay and Köthen with the Akademie fuer Alte Musik, the title role in Handel's ***Amadigi*** with Christopher Hogwood and the AAM in London and Birmingham, the title role in Mozart's ***Ascanio in Alba*** with the Berliner Symphoniker, Vivaldi's ***Nisi Dominus*** and ***Gloria*** with the Israel Camerata, the ***B Minor Mass*** with Ivor Bolton, and ***Saul*** in Berlin and Lisbon with René Jacobs and Concerto Köln. An accomplished recitalist, he has given many around Europe, most recently at the Wigmore Hall, the Rheinvokal Festival, the MA Festival Bruges, the Festival d'Opera Baroque de Beaune and the Wiener Konzerthaus.

Future plans include the title role in ***Alessandro*** for the Handel Festival in Karlsruhe, Oberon in a new Paul Curran production for the Rome Opera with James Conlon conducting, a new production of ***Julius Caesar*** for English National Opera, a tour of ***B Minor Mass*** with René Jacobs, and ***Messiah*** for the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston.

His recordings include ***Rinaldo***, ***Messiah***, ***Griselda*** and ***Saul*** for Harmonia Mundi; ***Serse*** and ***Fernando*** for Virgin Classics, ***Partenope*** for Chandos, ***Deborah*** for Naxos, Britten's ***Rejoice in the Lamb*** and Pergolesi's ***Stabat Mater*** for Columns Classics, ***Riccardo Primo***, ***Athalia***, and ***Duetti Amorosi*** for Sony BMG, as well as ***Byrdland***, the music of William Byrd and Dowland with the Paragon Saxophone Quartet, for Landor Records. ***Lunarcy***, a lute recital of early and contemporary mad songs with lutenist Shizuko Noiri has just been released next year by EPR Classics.