



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, London, Brussels, Seville, Bilbao), the title role in Gluck's ***Orfeo*** (Vienna, Toronto, Oslo, Netherlands), Oberon ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (Rome, Lyon, Aix-en-Provence, Toronto), Farnace ***Mitridate*** (Munich), the title role in ***Radamisto*** (English National Opera), Arsamene ***Serse*** (Theatre des Champs-Élysées, English National Opera), Goffredo ***Rinaldo*** (Berlin Staatsoper, Zurich, Opéra de Montpellier), Ottone ***Agrippina*** (Brussels, Frankfurt, Theatre des Champs-Élysées), Endimione ***La Calisto*** (Munich, Brussels, Paris), Ottone ***L'incoronazione di Poppea*** (Vienna, Berlin, Brussels, Munich), Ruggiero in ***Orlando Furioso*** (Frankfurt), and the title roles in Handel's ***Sosarme*** (Sao Carlos, Lisbon) and ***Alessandro*** (Karlsruhe).

Lawrence is also a keen advocate of 20th century and contemporary music. He recently sang the premiere performance of Rolf Riehm's ***Sirenengesang*** at the Frankfurt Opera, and created the role of Trinculo in Thomas Ades' ***The Tempest*** at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. His Paris Opera debut was as Kreon in Liebermann's ***Medea***. He has also sung Sciarrino's ***Luci mie traditrici*** in Brussels, New York, and Rouen, and 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***, and sang the Refugee in Jonathan Dove's ***Flight*** for the Glyndebourne Festival. He made his Wigmore recital debut with a programme of 20th-century American songs, and recently also premiered there a commissioned song cycle of Shakespeare fool songs by composer Iain Bell.

Lawrence has worked with many distinguished conductors in the fields of Baroque and contemporary music, including René Jacobs, William Christie, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Rinaldo Alessandrini, Christophe Rousset, John Nelson, Ivor Bolton, James Conlon, Alan Curtis, Hervé Niquet, 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: 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 für 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 in Salzburg, ***Jephtha*** in Graz with Nikolaus Harnoncourt, ***Theodora*** in Paris and Vienna with Hervé Niquet and Le concert spirituel, 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 Norwegian Opera, the Festival d'Opéra Baroque de Beaune, the Rheinvokal Festival, the MA Festival Bruges, and the Vienna Konzerthaus.

His recordings include ***Rinaldo***, ***Messiah***, ***Griselda*** and ***Saul*** for Harmonia Mundi; ***Serse*** and ***Fernando*** for Virgin Classics, ***Partenope*** for Chandos, ***Deborah*** for Naxos, Mozart's ***Apollo et Hyacinthus*** for Linn Records, Britten's ***Rejoice in the Lamb*** and Pergolesi's ***Stabat Mater*** for Columns Classics, ***Riccardo Primo***, ***Athalia***, and ***Duetti Amorosi*** for Sony BMG, ***Byrdland***, the music of William Byrd and Dowland with the Paragon Saxophone Quartet for Landor Records, and ***Lunarcy***, a lute recital of early and contemporary mad songs with lutenist Shizuko Noiri on EPR Classics. His first solo orchestral CD, ***A Royal Trio***, with La Nuova Musica has recently been released on Harmonia Mundi USA, as well as a new complete recording of Mozart's ***Mitridate*** with the Classical Opera Company.

Future plans include Handel's ***Orlando*** (title role) at Welsh National Opera with Rinaldo Alessandrini, Cavalli's ***Veremonda*** in Schwetzingen and performances of Conti's ***Don Chisciotte*** with René Jacobs in Paris, Vienna, and Cologne.