Lawrence Zazzo

Counter-tenor

American countertenor Lawrence Zazzo made his operatic debut as Oberon in Britten’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* to great acclaim while still a student at the Royal College of Music in London and has since performed the role extensively including at Canadian Opera Company, Festival d’Aix-en-Provence and at Staatsoper Hamburg. In the current season Zazzo repeats the role at Wiener Staatsoper in a new staging by Irina Brook and conducted by Simone Young.

A diverse and thriving international opera career has taken Zazzo to most of the world’s leading opera houses and festivals appearing as Giulio Cesare at La Monnaie, English National Opera, Semperoper Dresden and Opéra national de Paris (released on DVD), Farnace in Mozart’s *Mitridate, re di Ponto* for Bayerische Staatsoper, and Tolomeo (*Giulio Cesare*) at the Metropolitan Opera. He has sung the title roles in *Radamisto* for English National Opera, *Orlando* for Welsh National Opera, and *Solomon* for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, as well as Orfeo (*Orfeo ed Euridice*) for Canadian Opera Company and Den Norske Opera, Bertarido in Claus Guth’s production of *Rodelinda* for Opéra National de Lyon, Ottone (*Agrippina*) at Oper Frankfurt and Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Goffredo (*Rinaldo*) for Staatsoper Berlin and Opernhaus Zürich, Arsamene (*Xerxes*) for Oper Frankfurt, and Ottone (*L’incoronazione di Poppea*) for Theater an der Wien, La Monnaie and Bayerische Staatsoper.  Further opera appearances in the 19/20 season include a debut as Handel’s Tamerlano at Oper Frankfurt, and *Rodelinda* at Dutch National Opera under Riccardo Minasi.

With a strong affinity for contemporary repertoire, Zazzo has also created several contemporary characters including Mascha in Peter Eötvös’s *Tri Sestri*, the Refugee in Jonathan Dove’s *Flight* for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, and Trinculo in Thomas Ades’s *The Tempest* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. He gave the world premiere of Dove’s *Hojoki* with the BBC Symphony Orchestra under the late Jiří Bělohlávek, and created the role of Odysseus in the world premiere of Rolf Riehm’s *Sirenen* for Oper Frankfurt conducted by Martyn Brabbins.

The most recent addition to Zazzo’s recording catalogue is *Baroque Gender Stories*, recorded with Lautten Compagney and Wolfgang Katschner (deutsche harmonia mundi) and launched last season in live performances at Händel-Festspiele Halle and KlangVokal Musikfestival Dortmund. Other discs in his extensive discography include *A Royal Trio* (harmonia mundi USA) featuring works by Ariosti, Bononcinci and Handel with La nuova musica and David Bates, Mozart’s *Apollo et Hyacinthus* (Linn Records) and *Mitridate, re di Ponto*, both with Classical Opera and Ian Page, and *Giulio Cesare* with Le Concert d’Astrée and Emanuelle Haïm (Virgin Classics).