James Ley

Tenor

American-born James Ley is a graduate of the Opera Studies programme at New York’s prestigious Juilliard School where he debuted as both Ferrando in *Cosí fan tutte* and Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* to wide acclaim.  As Ferrando, he was praised for his ‘pure tone and innocent expressiveness’ (*operawire.com*) and as Don Ottavio, for his ‘lovely legato lines with his silvery tenor’ (*seenandheard-international.com*).

In the 2020/21 season, James Ley was a member of the Opernstudio of Bayerische Staatsoper Munich as the recipient of an Opera Foundation scholarship.  Most recently he sang the Messenger in *Aida* under Zubin Mehta as part of the Munich Opera Festival, joined the Tiroler Festspiele Erl for a concert including Tamino’s aria “Dies bildnis” from *Die Zauberflӧte,* the Prince’s aria “Dein ist mein ganzes Herz” from *Das Land des Lächelns*, and Nadir and Zurga’s duet “Au fond du temple saint” from *Les pêcheurs de perles*. Plans for the 2021/22 season include his return to Ferrando (*Cosí fan tutte*) and Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*)in a special production of the Da Ponte Trilogy with Les Musiciens du Louvre and Marc Minkowski for performances at Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona and Opéra National de Bordeaux.  On the concert stage, James debuts with the Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunk in Mendelssohn’s Elias.

James’ further performing experience to date includes the world premiere of Marius Felix Lange’s *Der Gesang der Zauberinse*l at Salzburg Festival, Le petit vieillard in *L’enfant et les sortilèges* with the Juilliard Orchestra conducted by Emmanuel Villaume and, at Wheaton College, Abraham in a staged production of Britten’s Canticle II: Abraham and Isaac and his first Tamino in Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte*.  In concert, James has performed Handel’s Messiah at Wheaton College, as well as excerpts from Schubert’s Winterreise with Brian Zeger at Alice Tully Hall as part of Juilliard Songfest.

James studies with Edith Wiens and has participated in Masterclasses with Yannick Nézet-Séguin as well as in Carnegie Hall’s SongStudio, with guest teachers including Renée Fleming. In 2018, he participated in the Festival d’Aix-en-Provence Mozart Académie and the Internationale Meistersinger Akademie, and was part of the 2019 Salzburg Young Artist Project.