Lawrence Zazzo

Counter-tenor

American countertenor Lawrence Zazzo made his operatic debut as Oberon in Britten’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* while still a student at the Royal College of Music in London and has since performed the role extensively to great acclaim including at Canadian Opera Company, Festival d’Aix-en-Provence, Staatsoper Hamburg and, most recently, in Irina Brook’s exquisite new production at Wiener Staatsoper under the baton of 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, *Tamerlano* for Oper Frankfurt and *Solomon* for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.  He has appeared as Orfeo (*Orfeo ed Euridice*) at Canadian Opera Company and Den Norske Opera, Bertarido in Claus Guth’s production of *Rodelinda* at Opéra national de Lyon, Ottone (*Agrippina*) at Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Goffredo (*Rinaldo*) at Staatsoper Berlin and Opernhaus Zürich, Arsamene (*Xerxes*) at Oper Frankfurt, Ottone (*L’incoronazione di Poppea*) at Theater an der Wien, La Monnaie and Bayerische Staatsoper, and most recently Disinganno (*Il trionfo de tempo e del disinganno*) at the Salzburg Whistun and Summer Festivals.

Highlights this season include Orfeo (*Orfeo ed Euridice*) for New National Theatre Tokyo conducted by Masato Suzuki, and Lawrence’s debut with Scottish Opera as Oberon in Dominic Hill’s new production of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* under Stuart Stratford. In concert he joins Insula Orchestra conducted by Laurence Equilbey in Paris and Aix-en-Provence, Houston Symphony Orchestra for Handel’s Messiah led by Bernard Labadie, and sings the title role in Handel’s *Giustino* at the Internationale Händel-Festspiele Göttingen with the Lautten Compagney.

With a strong affinity for contemporary repertoire, Zazzo has 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 impressive recording catalogue is *Handel Uncaged* a cycle of cantatas for alto voice and trio released on the Inventa label. Other discs in his extensive discography include *Baroque Gender Stories*, recorded with Lautten Compagney and Wolfgang Katschner (deutsche harmonia mundi), *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 the title role in Handel’s *Giulio Cesare* with Le Concert d’Astrée and Emanuelle Haïm (Virgin Classics).