Lawrence Zazzo

Counter-tenor

“Purity, power, presence” (*Opera Today*) are the hallmarks of American countertenor Lawrence Zazzo. A diverse international opera and concert career has taken Zazzo to many of the world’s leading opera houses and festivals in an eclectic repertoire from Gluck’s *Orfeo ed Euridice* through to Jonathan Dove’s *Flight*.

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, Wiener Staatsoper and, most recently, in Dominic Hill’s critically acclaimed new production for Scottish Opera.

Highlights of an illustrious career include Disinganno in Robert Carsen’s staging of Handel’s *Il trionfo de tempo e del disinganno*at the 2021 Salzburg Whitsun and Summer Festivals alongside Cecilia Bartoli and conducted by Gianluca Capuano, Farnace in Mozart’s *Mitridate, re di Ponto* for Bayerische Staatsoper, Bertarido in Claus Guth’s production of *Rodelinda* at Opéra national de Lyon and Tolomeo at the Metropolitan Opera.  As Giulio Cesare, Zazzo has appeared at Opéra national de Paris, at La Monnaie, English National Opera and Semperoper Dresden and he’s sung the title roles in *Radamisto* for English National Opera, *Orlando*for Welsh National Opera and *Solomon* for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. He has appeared as Orfeo (*Orfeo ed Euridice*) with Canadian Opera Company, Den Norske Opera and with New National Theatre Tokyo in Saburo Teshigawara’s new production under Masato Suzuki, released this season on OperaVision. Further highlights have included Ottone (*Agrippina*) at Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Goffredo (*Rinaldo*) at Staatsoper Berlin and Opernhaus Zürich and Ottone (*L’incoronazione di Poppea*) at Theater an der Wien, La Monnaie and Bayerische Staatsoper. This season Lawrence reprises two of his recent roles for Oper Frankfurt:  Tamerlano in R.B. Schlather’s acclaimed production at the Bockenheimer Depot and Arsamene in Tilmann Köhler’s production of *Xerxes* under Roland Böer.

With a strong affinity for contemporary repertoire, Zazzo has created several contemporary characters including Mascha in Peter Eötvös’ *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 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. Most recently Zazzo gave the premiere performance of *Paradise Lost*, a monodrama written for him by Geoff Page, to unanimous critical acclaim.

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).