James Ley

Tenor

American-born James Ley is a graduate of the Opera Studies programme at New York’s prestigious Juilliard School, where he was praised for his “pure tone and innocent expressiveness” (*Opera Wire*) and for his “lovely legato lines with his silvery tenor” (*Seen and Heard* *International*).

James Ley begins the 2022/23 season with a debut at the Edinburgh International Festival as the Second Nazarene in *Salome* with Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Edward Gardner, and continues with his first appearance at Oper Bern as Vaudémont in *Iolanta,* in a new production by David Bösch led by Chief Conductor Nicholas Carter. He returns to Ferrando (*Cosí fan tutte*) in a special production of the Da Ponte Trilogy with Les Musiciens du Louvre and Marc Minkowski for performances and a recording in Versailles and sings his first Schumann *Das Paradies und die Peri* with Orquesta Sinfónica de Navarra under music director Perry So.

The 2021/22 season included house debuts at Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona and Opéra National de Bordeaux as Ferrando with Les Musiciens du Louvre under Marc Minkowski. On the concert stage, he debuted with Opéra de Limoges in Beethoven’s Symphony No.9 and with Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunk in Mendelssohn’s *Elias*.

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 Ley has appeared in Masterclass with Yannick Nézet-Séguin as well as in Carnegie Hall’s SongStudio, with guest teachers including Renée Fleming.  He enjoyed several summers at the Internationale Meistersinger Akademie, and James participated in the Festival d’Aix-en-Provence Académie, the Salzburg Young Artist Project, and the Internationale Meistersinger Akademie. For the 2020/21 season he was a member of the Opernstudio of Bayerische Staatsoper Munich as the recipient of an Opera Foundation scholarship, where he sang the Messenger in *Aida* under Zubin Mehta as part of the Munich Opera Festival.