James Ley

Tenor

American-born James Ley is a graduate of the Opera Studies programme at New York’s prestigious Juilliard School, a former member of both the Salzburg Young Artist Project and the Opernstudio at Bayerische Staatsoper and a finalist of the 2022 Operalia Competition.

James Ley’s recent seasons have included Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* with Marc Minkowski and Les Musiciens du Louvre at Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona, Opéra National de Bordeaux and at Château de Versailles, his début as Vaudémont in Tchaikovsky’s *Iolanta* in a new production at Oper Bern, led by Chief Conductor Nicholas Carter, and the same role at Salzburger Landestheater. Returning to Bayerische Staatsoper as a guest artist, Ley sang the Messenger in *Aida* under Daniele Rustioni as part of the Munich Opera Festival and at the Edinburgh International Festival he joined Ed Gardner and Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra as Second Nazarene in *Salome*, set for commercial release on Chandos Records.

As a young artist, Ley participated in the Académie of Festival d’Aix-en-Provence and spent several summers at Edith Wiens’ Internationale Meistersinger Akademie. During his time in Munich’s Opernstudio, he sang the Messenger in *Aida* under Zubin Mehta and his further performing experience 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 *Die Zauberflöte*.

The 2023/24 season for James Ley includes a debut in the role of Kudrjas inJanacek’s *Katya Kabanova* at Bergen National Opera conducted by Eivind Gullberg Jensen and, on the concert platform, he performs Scriabin’s Symphony No.1 with both Danish National Symphony Orchestra under Fabio Luisi and Orquesta y Coro de la Communidad de Madrid under Marzena Diakun, Bruckner’s *Te Deum* with Atlanta Symphony Orchestra under Nathalie Stutzmann, Britten’s *Nocturne* with Aarhus Symphony Orchestra under Christoph Koncz and Handel’s *Messiah* at Wheaton College.

Previous concert performances include Beethoven’s Symphony No.9 at Opéra de Limoges and Mendelssohn’s *Elias* with Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunk. In recital, James Ley has performed excerpts from Schubert’s *Winterreise* with Brian Zeger at Alice Tully Hall as part of Juilliard Songfest and participated in Carnegie Hall’s SongStudio with Renée Fleming.