James Ley

Tenor

James Ley is an American-born tenor and graduate of the Juilliard School’s Opera Studies programme. A finalist in the 2022 Operalia Competition, he has been praised for his “pure tone and innocent expressiveness” and “lovely legato line and silvery tenor.”

Since joining the ensemble at Semperoper Dresden last season, Ley has performed Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*), Baron Lummer (*Intermezzo*), Arturo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), and Jonathan (*Saul*) and in the current season, returns as Belmonte (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), and Tybalt (*Roméo et Juliette*).

Recent operatic highlights include Váňa Kudrjaš (*Káťa Kabanová*) at Bayerische Staatsoper under Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, Vaudémont (*Iolanta*) at Oper Bern led by Nicholas Carter, Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*) at Opéra National de Bordeaux and Gran Teatre del Liceu conducted by Marc Minkowski, and the Messenger (*Aida*) under Zubin Mehta at Münchener Opernfestspiele.

As an esteemed concert artist, Ley has performed Scriabin, Symphony No.1 with Danish National Symphony Orchestra under Fabio Luisi, Bruckner, *Te Deum* with Atlanta Symphony and Nathalie Stutzmann, Britten, *Nocturne* with Aarhus Symphony Orchestra under Christoph Koncz, Beethoven, Symphony No.9 with Opéra de Limoges and Robert Tuohy and Mendelssohn *Elias*with Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunk under Howard Arman.  James Ley is a regular performer of Handel, *Messiah* most recently with Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra.  He joined Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Edward Gardner at Edinburgh International Festival as Second Nazarene in *Salome*, recorded by Chandos Records.

In the 25/26 season, James Ley returns to Danish National Symphony Orchestra for Szymanowski, Symphony No.3 under Thomas Søndergård and heads to Nashville for a seasonal *Messiah*under Nathan Aspinall.

Ley is a former Opera Foundation scholar at Bayerische Staatsoper Opernstudio, with wider training at Festival d’Aix-en-Provence Académie, Salzburg Young Artist Project, and Internationale Meistersinger Akademie and he has participated in masterclasses with Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Renée Fleming.