Lawrence Zazzo

Counter-tenor

“Purity, power, presence” (*Opera Today*) are the hallmarks of American counter-tenor 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 ranging from Handel’s *Giulio Cesare* 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, Scottish Opera and most recently at Wiener Staatsoper in Irina Brook’s acclaimed new production.

Highlights of an illustrious career include Disinganno in Robert Carsen’s staging of Handel’s *Il trionfo del 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 (*Giulio Cesare)* at the Metropolitan Opera. As the title role of *Giulio Cesare*, Zazzo has appeared at Opéra national de Paris, La Monnaie, English National Opera and Semperoper Dresden, and he’s sung the title roles of *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 production under Masato Suzuki, recently released on OperaVision. Other performances 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 sings the title role of *Giulio Cesare* in a new staging at Oper Frankfurt under the baton of Simone Di Felice and returns to Wiener Staatsoper as the Herald in Reimann’s *Medea* conducted by Michael Boder. In concert he sings *Carmina Burana* with the Brussels Philharmonic under Kazushi Ono.

With a strong affinity for contemporary repertoire, Zazzo has created several 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).