

James Way

Tenor



Described as “a magnetic presence” (Opera Magazine) and “a consistent scene stealer” (The New York Times), tenor, **James Way** is fast gaining international recognition for the versatility of his voice and commanding stage presence. His recording of Purcell *King Arthur* with the Gabrieli Consort was named recording of the year by BBC Music Magazine as well as winning the Opera category. James was winner of the 2nd Prize in the 62nd Kathleen Ferrier Awards at Wigmore Hall. James studied music and was a choral scholar at King’s College London before continuing his studies at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama where he learnt with Susan Waters. He is a former Britten-Pears Young Artist, a laureate of both the Les Arts Florissants ‘Jardin des Voix’ and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment’s Rising Stars young artist programmes and was awarded an Independent Opera Voice Fellowship. James was selected to participate in Barbara Hannigan’s inaugural Equilibrium Young Artists Programme.

A highly versatile performer, James is increasingly in demand on the concert platform in appearances spanning the breadth of the repertoire from the baroque to the present day with orchestras including the BBC Symphony Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonia, Munich Philharmonic, Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra, RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra, Copenhagen Philharmonic and L’Orchestre de Chambre de Paris. His regular appearances with the BBC Symphony Orchestra have included the European premiere of Ross Harris *FACE*, Berlioz *Les nuits d’été*, works by Lili Boulanger, and Vaughan Williams *Serenade to Music* at the Last Night of the Proms.

James’ love of baroque music has seen him appear with many of the finest early music ensembles across Europe, with highlights including Handel *Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno* (**Tempo**) with the Freiburger Barockorchester under René Jacobs; Handel *Samson* (**title role**) with John Butt and the Dunedin Consort; Monteverdi *Vespers* with Laurence Cummings and the English Concert for Garsington Opera; and *Acis & Galatea* (**Acis**) with Les Arts Florissants; as well as *Messiah* tours with Trevor Pinnock and the FBO, and with William Christie and Les Arts Florissants.

Opera credits include his debuts with Staatsoper Berlin in Purcell *King Arthur* (AKAMUS and René Jacobs) and with the Philharmonia Orchestra and

Jakub Hruša as the **Holy Fool Boris Godunov** at the Royal Festival Hall; **Lechmere Owen Wingrave** for Grange Park Opera, **Sellem** in a worldwide tour of *The Rake’s Progress* under the baton of Barbara Hannigan; *Il Trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno* (**Tempo**) for Opéra national de Montpellier under Thibault Noally; the **Young King** in George Benjamin’s *Lessons in Love and Violence* at St Petersburg’s Mariinsky Theatre; the **Ballad Singer Owen Wingrave** for the Aldeburgh and Edinburgh International Festivals c. **Mark Wigglesworth** and **Davy** in Roxanna Panufnik’s new opera *Silver Birch* for Garsington Opera. Future engagements include a return to Berlin Staatsoper and his house debut for Zurich Opera.

His recent performances include Academy of St Martin in the Fields (*Messiah*), Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra (Stravinsky *Pulcinella*), and Grange Park Opera (**Lechmere Owen Wingrave**); Handel’s *Solomon* (excerpts), *Foundling Anthem* with the English Concert and Harry Bicket, Handel and Hayden Society Boston (*Messiah*) and the Fondazione Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano (Stravinsky *Pulcinella*).

2021/2022 dates include a recording and European tour of Handel *L’Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato* with Les Arts Florissants and William Christie. James will also be appearing as **First witch & sailor** Dido & Aeneas at Berlin Staatsoper and Ludwigsburder Schlossfestspiele and as **Damon** Acis & Galatea with London Handel Festival. Next season James makes his debut at Opernhaus Zurich as **Zotico** in Cavalli’s *Eliogabalo*.

James’ enjoys programming and collaborating on song projects and recently performed Wolf Italian Songbook with pianist Christopher Glynn and soloists including Rowan Pierce and Roderick Williams, appearing at the Lammermuir Festival, St George’s Hall Liverpool, St George’s Bristol and Wigmore Hall. Other recital engagements include Oxford Lieder, London Song Festival, Marylebone Festival and Newbury Festival (with the Schubert Ensemble) as well as curating projects for the Devon Song Festival and SongSpiel.

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For updated versions please contact
info@rayfieldallied.com