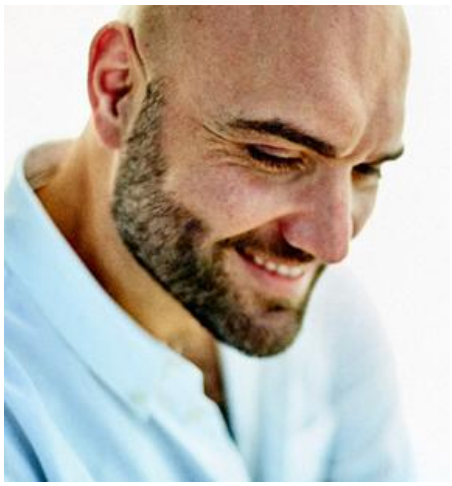
Rayfield Allied

Xavier Sabata

Countertenor



"Sabata has one of the richest of counter-tenor voices, his warmth of tone carrying intimations of decadence. A perceptive vocal actor, he gets to the essence of his protagonists... The beauty of Sabata's singing is breathtaking, however unsettling his characters..."
The Guardian

From Handel's great heroic roles to the theatrical worlds of Britten and Ligeti, **Xavier Sabata** has forged a distinctive international career as a countertenor, combining leading operatic roles with an adventurous approach to music and theatre. Originally trained as an actor, he brings a remarkable dramatic intelligence and imagination to his performances, whether on the opera stage or in the original theatrical projects he conceives and directs. His career has taken him to the Wiener Staatsoper, Opéra national de Paris, Staatsoper Unter den Linden Berlin, Teatro Real Madrid, Gran Teatre del Liceu and many of Europe's leading opera houses and festivals.

Recent highlights include the title roles in Handel's *Giulio Cesare* at the Gran Teatre del Liceu under William Christie and *Orlando* at Oper Köln, Oberon in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Seville, Prince Go-Go in Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre* at the Wiener Staatsoper and *I Grotteschi* at La Monnaie. Forthcoming engagements include title and major roles at La Monnaie and Teatro Real, a return to Oper Köln for Scarlatti's *Il primo omicidio*, the title role in Handel's *Orlando* in Tenerife and *Alessandro* with Vespres d'Arnadí.

A celebrated interpreter of Handel and the music of the 17th and 18th centuries, Sabata has collaborated with leading conductors including William Christie, René Jacobs, Jordi Savall, Christophe Rousset, Maxim Emelyanychev, Andrea Marcon and Fabio Biondi, and ensembles such as Les Arts Florissants, Il Pomo d'Oro, Freiburger Barockorchester, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin and Concerto Köln. His close artistic relationship with Dani Espasa and Vespres d'Arnadí continues to produce performances and recordings of both familiar and neglected Baroque repertoire. This season also sees him perform Handel's *Scipione* with The English Concert under Harry Bicket.

Alongside his international operatic career, Sabata has established himself as an imaginative creator of original musical and theatrical projects. He made his directing debut with Handel's *Rinaldo* at the Händel-Festspiele Halle, also singing the title role, and subsequently directed and performed in Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* at the Gran Teatre del Liceu, in a co-production with Teatro Real and Teatro de La Abadía. His theatrical collaborations include *Genius Loci*, created with Rafael R. Villalobos, and a staged interpretation of Schubert's *Winterreise*, which he performed to a sold-out audience at La Monnaie.

His distinctive recital projects further reflect his wide-ranging musical curiosity. *Furioso*, exploring the tormented world of Handel's Orlando with Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu, has been recorded and performed internationally, while *inVISIBILI* with Vespres d'Arnadí and Dani Espasa brings neglected Baroque repertoire to new audiences. His collaboration with the Kebyart saxophone quartet, *I Am an Unusual Thing*, crosses centuries and musical genres, from Vivaldi and Purcell to Gershwin, Weill and Sondheim. His commitment to Lied has also led to a recording of Schubert's *Winterreise* for Berlin Classics.

Sabata's extensive discography includes Handel's *Tamerlano*, *Ottone*, *Arminio*, *Faramondo* and the award-winning *Alessandro*. His solo album *Bad Guys* was described by *The Guardian* as ranking "among the most intelligent and striking recital discs of recent years". Nominated for Best Male Singer at the 2019 International Opera Awards, he has also received the Premio Ópera Actual and Premi Tendències awards. He studied acting at Barcelona's Institut del Teatre before undertaking vocal studies at the Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya and the Musikhochschule Karlsruhe.

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