

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

Catalan countertenor *Xavier Sabata* trained as an actor at Barcelona's Institut del Teatre before studying singing at the Escola Superior de Musica Catalunya and at the Musikhochschule, Karlsruhe, where his teachers were Hartmut Höll and Mitsuko Shirai.

Opera productions have led him to the most distinguished opera houses worldwide including Teatro Real Madrid, Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Theater an der Wien, Teatro La Fenice in Venice and the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

Sabata's repertoire spans from Cavalli and Monteverdi and the heroes of baroque opera seria to contemporary works. Recent roles have included **Bertarido** in Handel's *Rodelinda* with Claus Guth under Stefano Montanari at Opéra de Lyon, and also at Teatro Municipal de Santiago, Chile; **Ottone** in a revival of Monteverdi *L'incoronazione di Poppea* under Diego Fasolis at Staatsoper Unter den Linden and at *Wiener Staatsoper* in Jan Lauwers' production; **Endimione** *La Calisto* directed by David Alden with Ivor Bolton at Teatro Real, Madrid; the world premiere of *L'enigma di Lea* at Gran Teatro del Liceu, Barcelona; **title role** in Handel *Rinaldo* at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and on tour with Christophe Rousset and the Kammerorchester Basel and the **title role** in *Orlando* for the Perelada Festival.

He has appeared with such ensembles as Les Arts Florissants, Europa Galante, Collegium 1704, the Venice Baroque Orchestra and Orquesta Barroca Sevilla and Il Pomo D'Oro and collaborates regularly with conductors such as Fabio Biondi, René Jacobs, Jordi Savall, Alan Curtis, Gabriel Garrido, Andrea Marcon, Xavier Diaz Latorre, Maxim Emelyanychev and Ivor Bolton. He performs regularly as many of the major international concert venues and festivals including the Salzburg Festival, the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Innsbruck Festival of Early Music and the Halle, Göttingen and Dresdner Musikfestspiele.

He was awarded the Premio Ópera Actual in 2013, and the Premi Tendències d'el Mundo in 2014, and was nominated for best male artist in the 2019 International Opera Awards.

His extensive discography under major labels such as Virgin Classics/EMI and Decca includes recordings of Handel's operas *Faramando*, *Arminio*, *Ottone*, the multi-award-winning recording of *Alessandro*, and the **title role** in *Tamerlano*. The Guardian described his solo disc 'Bad Guys' as ranking 'among the most intelligent and striking recital discs of recent years'. He

also participated in the *Gala Night of Countertenors* team, alongside Max Emanuel Cencic, Yuriy Mynenko and Franco Fagioli,

released by DECCA. In addition to his performances on the opera stage Xavier has a passion for Lied, and has recently recorded Schubert *Winterreise* for the Berlin Classics label.

The past season saw Xavier return to Vienna Staatsoper to reprise the role of **Ottone** in Monteverdi's *Poppea* under Pablo Heras-Casado. Other highlights included a tour of *Winterreise*, **Voce di dio** in Scarlatti *Il Primo Omicidio* for Essen Opera and **title role** *Orlando* for Halle Oper, which he will revisit in 22/23. He also directed and starred in Schoenberg's iconic piece *Pierrot Lunaire* at the Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona.

Highlights of Xavier's upcoming season include a series of concerts with *Vespres d'Arnadi* entitled 'inVISIBILI,' performing forgotten Baroque works at the Wigmore Hall, Palau de la Musica Orfeó Català, Auditori Nacional in Madrid and La Caixa Foundation, Seville. He will return to the Liceu in Barcelona, in the new opera *Alexina B* by composer Raquel García Tomás and in the role of **Ottone** in Calixto Bieito's production of *L'incoronazione di Poppea* under Jordi Savall and sing **Il disinganno** in *Il Trionfo del Tempo* with Les Nouveaux Caractères.

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