



Xavier Sabata

Countertenor

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. This season he makes his Wiener Staatsoper debut as Ottone in Monteverdi's *Poppea* under Pablo Heras-Casado.

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 *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; 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 also in a new production at the Perelada Festival; and Ottone in Handel *Agrippina* on a European tour with Il Pomo D'Oro and Maxim Emelyanychev.

He has appeared with such ensembles as Les Arts Florissants, Europa Galante, Collegium 1704, the Venice Baroque Orchestra and Orquesta Barroca Sevilla, and collaborates regularly with conductors such as Fabio Biondi, René Jacobs, Jordi Savall, Alan Curtis, Gabriel Garrido, Andrea Marcon, Xavier Díaz Latorre and Ivor Bolton. Concert performances have taken him to the Concertgebouw Amsterdam, the Barbican Centre and Wigmore Hall in London, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center in Washington, the Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, Auditorio Nacional in Madrid and the Palau de la Musica in Barcelona as well as the Salzburg Festival, the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, the Innsbruck Festival of Early Music and the 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 Myntenko 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, following performances in Barcelona and Girona.