



## Josè Maria Lo Monaco

### Mezzo-Soprano

One of the most promising mezzo-sopranos of her generation, Josè Maria Lo Monaco made her debut at the Rossini Opera Festival Academy in Pesaro as Melibea in *Il Viaggio a Reims* in 2005. She was re-invited on several occasions to perform *L'Italiana in Algeri*, *La Scala di Seta* and *La Gazzetta*.

After graduating from the Conservatory Vincenzo Bellini (Catania) as a pianist, Lo Monaco studied singing with mezzo-soprano Bianca Maria Casoni in Milan. She very quickly received invitations from French and Italian opera houses.

She made her debut at the Teatro La Scala in the *Petite Messe Solennelle* and in *Dido and Aeneas*. She was re-invited to perform *La Donna del Lago*, *Oberto* and *Isolier* in *Le Comte Ory* with Juan Diego Flórez in a Laurent Pelly production.

Josè Maria made her debut at the Opéra National de Paris and at the Salzburg Festival as Timante in Jommelli's *Demofonte* under the baton of Riccardo Muti. She performed the title role in *Carmen* at the Opéra National de Lyon, conducted by Stefano Montanari and staged by Olivier Py; this was awarded "production of the year" by Mezzo Television. Her debut as Angelina in *La Cenerentola* in Italy (Bari, Reggio Emilia, Cagliari) with Evelino Pido was such a success that she performed the role again in Rennes in Jérôme Savary's production, in Bilbao and at the Rome Opera.

She was *Musica* and *Messagiera* in Monteverdi's *Orfeo* with Ottavio Dantone staged by Robert Carsen; *Messagiera* and *Speranza* in *L'Orfeo* with Andrea Marcon, Jordi Savall, Claudio Cavina; *Ottavia* in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* with Alan Curtis; *Charlotte* in *Werther* (Bologna) with Michele Mariotti; *Adalgisa* in *Norma* (Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège) and *Ruggiero* in *Alcina* (Teatro Real in Madrid). She sang the title role in *Serse* (Barcelona and Madrid) with Jean-Christophe Spinosi.

Josè Maria has performed many roles in works by Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Handel, Mozart and Rossini. She appeared as *Giuditta* in *Betulia Liberata* (Bremen), as *Juditha* in Vivaldi's *Juditha Triumphans* (Krakow), as *Alceste* in Handel's *Admeto*, as *Alcina* in Vivaldi's *Orlando furioso* (European tour with Spinosi and the Ensemble Matheus), as *Nerone* in Handel's *Agrippina* and as *Alessandro* in Scarlatti's *Carlo Re d'Allemagna* with Europe Galante under the baton of Fabio Biondi. She was also seen on stage in Vivaldi's *Tito Manlio* (London, Barbican).

In a more traditional operatic repertoire she has sung the roles of *Rosina* in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Adalgisa* in *Norma*, *Giovanna Seymour* in *Anna Bolena*, *Elisabetta* in *Maria Stuarda*, *Dorabella*

in *Così fan tutte*, Cherubino in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Orfeo in *Orfeo ed Euridice* and Cornelia in *Giulio Cesare*.

Josè Lo Monaco is regularly invited to perform at such prestigious theatres as La Scala in Milan, Teatro Real in Madrid, Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, Opéra Garnier in Paris, Salzburg Festival, La Fenice in Venice, Rossini Opera Festival, Opéra de Lyon to name but a few.

Lo Monaco works, among others, with Roberto Abbado, Fabio Biondi, Ottavio Dantone, Enrique Mazzola, Stefano Montanari, Riccardo Muti, Antonio Pappano, Evelino Pidò, Alberto Zedda, Donato Renzetti. She has participated in the productions of Robert Carsen (*Rigoletto* in Aix-en-Provence), Damiano Michieletto (*Così fan tutte*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *La Gazza ladra*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), and Pier Luigi Pizzi (*L'Incoronazione di Poppea* in Florence).

Josè performed Rossini's *Stabat Mater* at the Vatican under the baton of Jesús López Cobos for Pope Benedict XVI and Giorgio Napolitano, the former President of the Italian Republic. Other oratorio performances include Bach's *Magnificat* with Antonio Pappano at the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome and Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*.

She has recorded the Monteverdi trilogy for Glossa with La Venexiana and Claudio Cavina: she sings *Messaggera* in *Orfeo* (Gramophone Award), *Ottone* in *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* and *Penelope* in *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria*.

Recent and future engagements include *Cavalleria Rusticana* at La Monnaie in Bruxelles, the title role in *Carmen* at the Sydney Opera House, Angelina in *La Cenerentola* in Bilbao, Florence, Santiago de Chile, Adalgisa in *Norma*, Isolier in *Le Conte Ory* at the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège and Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at the Grange Festival, Melibea in *Il Viaggio a Reims* in Beijing.

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## Highlights

- Rossini: **Comte Ory** (Isolier) – Teatro alla Scala
- Bizet: **Carmen** (title role) – Sydney Opera House, Lyon Opera
- Rossini: **Cenerentola** (title role) – Bilbao, Rome, Santiago de Chile
- Bellini: **Norma** (Adalgisa) – Liège Opera
- Massenet: **Werther** (Charlotte) – Bologna
- Handel: **Serse** (title role) – Liceu Barcelona, Auditorio Madrid
- Purcell: **Dido and Aeneas** (Dido) – Florence
- Handel: **Alcina** (Ruggiero) – Teatro Real Madrid
- Rossini: **Il Viaggio a Reims, L’Italiana in Algeri, La Gazzetta, La Scala di seta** – Rossini Opera Festival
- Mozart: **Così fan tutte** (Dorabella), **Le Nozze di Figaro** (Cherubino) – Teatro La Fenice
- Monteverdi: **L’Orfeo** (Musica, Speranza) – Lausanne Opera
- Donizetti: **Maria Stuarda** (Elisabetta) – Festival Donizetti Bergamo