



## **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 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. In 2017 she appeared as *Carmen* at the Sydney Opera House.

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 Jérôme Savary's production in Rennes. She was also Angelina in Bilbao, Rome, Florence and Santiago de Chile.

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'incornazione di Poppea* with Alan Curtis; *Charlotte* in *Werther* with Michele Mariotti (Bologna); *Adalgisa* in *Norma* (Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège) and *Ruggiero* in *Alcina* (Teatro Real in Madrid). She sang the title role in *Serse* with Jean-Christophe Spinosi (Barcelona and Madrid).

Josè Maria has performed many roles in works by Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Handel, Mozart and Rossini. She appeared as *Giuditta* in Mozart's *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, Opéra de Lyon to name but a few.

She 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 Maria 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. She sang 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 is Messaggera in *Orfeo* (Gramophone Award), Ottone in *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* and Penelope in *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in patria*.

Among her recent and future engagements are Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at the Grange Festival; Isolier in *Le Comte Ory* at the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège; Giulietta in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples; Ottavia in Monteverdi's *Incoronazione di Poppea* with Jean-Christophe Spinosi at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires. Josè Maria performs works by Vivaldi and Handel in France and Belgium with the B'Rock Orchestra.

## Highlights

- Rossini: **Comte Ory** (Isolier) – Teatro alla Scala, Liège Opera
- 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 Nacional 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