



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 in 2005 as Melibea in Rossini's *Viaggio a Reims* and has returned there 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 debuted at La Scala in 2006 in Rossini's *Petite Messe solennelle* and in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and has since returned to perform *La Donna del Lago*, *Oberto*, *Conte di San Bonifacio* and Isolier in *Le Comte Ory* alongside Juan Diego Flórez in a Laurent Pelly production conducted by Donato Renzetti.

Josè Maria made her debut at the Opéra de Paris and the Salzburger Festspiele as Timante in Jommelli's *Demofonte* under the baton of Riccardo Muti.

She took on the title role in *Carmen* conducted by Stefano Montanari and staged by Olivier Py for the Opéra National de Lyon; this was awarded "production of the year" by Mezzo Television. She returned to the role for the Sydney Opera House.

Josè Maria has distinguished herself as an interpreter of the Bel Canto repertoire, starring as Adalgisa in Bellini's *Norma* at the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège, Giovanna Seymour in Donizetti's *Anna Bolena* and Elisabetta in *Maria Stuarda* at the Bergamo Donizetti Festival alongside Mariella Devia.

Her debut as Angelina (*La Cenerentola*) at the Bari Teatro Petruzzelli with Evelino Pidò/Daniele Abbado was followed by performances of the role in Rome, Florence, Santiago de Chile and in Jérôme Savary's staging of *La Cenerentola* in Rennes and Toulon. She was Rosina in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* at Teatro Regio Torino under Diego Fasolis and at La Fenice with Federico Maria Sardelli, and could be seen on stage as Isolier in *Le Comte Ory* in Liège and Milan. Josè performed in Rossini's *Turco in Italia* alongside Cecilia Bartoli in the new Gianluca Capuano/Jean-Louis Grinda production at both the Opéra de Monte-Carlo and the Wiener Staatsoper.

Recognized as a fine Monteverdi interpreter, Josè Maria Lo Monaco starred as Musica and Messagera (*L'Orfeo*) in an Ottavio Dantone/Robert Carsen production for the Lausanne Opera, and as Messagera and Speranza in the same opera under Andrea Marcon and Jordi Savall. She appeared as Ottavia in *L'Incarnazione di Poppea* with Alan Curtis/Pier Luigi Pizzi in Florence and under Jean-Christophe Spinosi at the Buenos Aires Teatro Colón. She has recorded the Monteverdi trilogy with La Venexiana for the Glossa label (Gramophone Award).

Among her career highlights are Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*) at La Fenice and in Ravenna in the highly acclaimed Mozart/Da Ponte Trilogy conceived by Marc Minkowski and Ivan Alexandre, Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) under Christophe Rousset at Opéra de Wallonie-Liège, Charlotte (Massenet, *Werther*) alongside Michele Mariotti in Bologna, Giulietta (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*) at the Naples Teatro San Carlo, and Fenena in Verdi's *Nabucco* at the Arena di Verona.

More recently, Josè Maria made her debut at Wigmore Hall with the complicity of Andrea De Carlo and has released her first solo album "All'amore immenso" with Massimo Mazzeo and Il Divino Sospiro.

In the 2023/2024 season, Josè Maria Lo Monaco will star as Ottavia in Pier Luigi Pizzi's staging of *L'incoronazione di Poppea* in Cremona, Como, Pavia, Pisa, Ravenna and will interpret the roles of La Musica/La Messaggera/Eco in the new Ottavio Dantone/Evgeny Titov production of Monteverdi's *Orfeo* at Opernhaus Zurich.