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Francesco Giusti

Countertenor



Francesco Giusti was born in Bologna, Italy, in 1983, where he studied piano at the Conservatorio Giovanni Battista Martini from 1992 until 1999. In 2000 he began studying singing as a countertenor as well as further broadening his studies to include organ playing and composition. Two years later, he became Maestro Francesco Tasini's student at the Ferrara Conservatoire, and furthered his studies in musicology at the University of Bologna (the oldest university in the world).

Francesco Giusti has become a sought-after soloist throughout Italy as well as in Portugal, Switzerland, Germany, the UK, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Slovenia and Japan. He regularly collaborates with important early music ensembles such as Roberto Gini's Ensemble Concerto and Gianluca Capuano's Il Canto di Orfeo. His 2004 recording of Claudio Monteverdi's "Ego Flos Campi" was released under the Dynamic label as part of Ensemble Concerto's "Monteverdi's Sacred Music" and is available on CD as well as all major digital platforms. He is also one of four soloists to be featured in the Ensemble DSG's forthcoming CD of motets from Giovanni Paolo Colonna's "Opera Seconda".

A former member of the vocal group "Ensemble DSG" founded by the Maestro di Cappella of the Basilica di San Petronio, Michele Vannelli, Francesco has sung in numerous concerts and recordings throughout Italy and France between 2000 and 2008. In 2006, together with

Ensemble Concerto he performed various Monteverdi masterpieces including “Orfeo” in Mantua, and recorded “Vespro della Beata Vergine” and “Missa in Illo Tempore” (2007).

Francesco first moved to the UK in 2006 to pursue further singing studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with Andrew Watts. One year later, with his Bachelor from Guildhall, he went on to study historical singing at the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Hochschule für Musik und Theater, in Leipzig, Germany with Gundula Anders. He graduated and obtained a degree for his supplementary studies (Ergänzungsstudium) in 2010. During this time, he also performed the leading role in a conservatory’s production of Giovanni Bononcini’s opera “Mario Fuggitivo”.

Since 2011 Francesco has been part of the opera project “Les Idées hereuse et Les Barricades Misterieuses”, led by Prof. Christa Näher of the Städelschule in Frankfurt am Main and violinist Matthias Klenota. In 2015 Klenota and Näher brought to light their newest stage work, “Centauri”, with Francesco as the only singer. Together with an instrumental ensemble they presented the work at the contemporary music festival ZeitRäume Basel. Between 2014 and 2016 he was also a student of Xenia Meijer and Maarten Koningsberger in a two-year Master of Music programme at the Amsterdam Conservatoire in the Netherlands. During this time, he participated in numerous projects under the batons of conductors such as Johannes Leertouwer, Teunis van der Zwart and Paul Dombrecht.

In the Netherlands, Francesco began collaborating with several Dutch ensembles, most notably the Domkantoor in Utrecht, led by Remco De Graas and the Ensemble Hovkapell, an ensemble founded by colleagues and Francesco himself and dedicated to the rediscovery of Scandinavian music of the XVII and XVIII centuries. The group now performs regularly in the Netherlands and is expanding their performances to festivals and competitions.

In 2017 Francesco moved to Dublin, Ireland, where he has been collaborating with local musicians and choirs, including St. Patrick’s Cathedral’s, St. Ann’s and Christ Church Cathedral’s, the latter of which he has been a member of since 2018. One year later, Francesco joined the Belfast-based early music ensemble, Sestina, led by Mark Chambers. During the 2018-19 season Francesco was also a member of the Northern Ireland Opera Studio with which he performed the title roles in productions of Scarlatti’s and Martini’s “La Dirindina” and Greg Caffrey’s “Pamplémousse”.

Over the years he has received coachings from, amongst others, Marek Rzepka, Robin Bowman, Emanuele Moris, Christian Curnyn, Dame Emma Kirkby, Magreet Honing, Evelyn Tubb, Claron McFadden, Therese de Goede and Max van Egmond, and he has also been active as a teacher himself.

Francesco’s further upcoming engagements include a staged project in Basel with music of the 1600s and a series of staged concerts at Northern Ireland Opera, with special focus on the repertoire of Farinelli and his contemporaries, as well an Irish tour of Händel’s “Semele” together with Sestina and Opera Collective Ireland.