



PAUL-ANTOINE BÉNOS-DJIAN *Counter-tenor*



Paul-Antoine Bénos-Djian started singing at the age of 10 with Opéra Junior in Montpellier. After studying percussion and obtaining a degree in Public Law, he studied at the Centre de Musique Baroque de Versailles before entering the Paris Conservatoire, where he studied with Yves Sotin. Whilst still a student, he was chosen to sing with conductors Christophe Rousset, Hervé Niquet and Florence Malgoire in major venues: the Theater an der Wien, the Opéra Royal and Chapelle Royale in Versailles, the Arsenal in Metz, Opéra d'Avignon, Opéra de Montpellier, Opéra de Massy, the Fondation Louis Vuitton and the Universities of Lafayette and Baton Rouge in the United States.

He has also sung as a soloist with Raphaël Pichon, Emmanuelle Haïm, Benoit Haller, Christophe Coin and Philippe Pierlot. Early career highlights included his operatic debut as **Athamas** in *Semele*, performances of Charpentier's *Le Malade Imaginaire* and working alongside the ballerina Ana Yepes in the Festival d'Automne at the Centre National de la Danse. He has also worked with well-known ensembles Les Cris de Paris, Les Lunaisiens, Les Musiciens du Paradis, La Tempesta, and Les Cyclopes.

His wide-ranging musical interests led him to join the summer academies of Sablé-sur-Sarthe and Royaumont, studying with Philippe Jaroussky, Andreas Scholl and Raphaël Pichon; he has also studied German and French song with Hartmut Höll and Mireille Delunsch. He is also gaining a reputation for his work in the world of contemporary music, singing the premiere of Philippe Raynaud's *Visage*, and the first performance of a piece for three male voices by Isabelle Fraisse for Radio-France.

In 2016, he sang as a soloist with the Taylor Consort as part of Poème Harmonique's season at the Chapelle Corneille, Rouen; he also performed Britten's *Canticles* for the 34th Festival de Musique de Chambre d'Entrecasteaux, a recital at the Festival de Sablé-sur-Sarthe with ensemble Il Pomo d'Oro/Maxim Emelyanichev, and a song recital for the *Jeunes Talents* season at the Petit Palais in Paris. In June 2017, he was invited to take part in a Mozart residency at the Académie du Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, where he was named among the 2017 *HSBC Révélation* award-winners. Paul Antoine has also received an award from the Fondation Meyer and won the Prix Grand-Avignon at the first running of the *Concours Jeunes Espoirs* at the Opéra d'Avignon.

This year, he has been involved in a major touring production of *Rinaldo* with La Co[opéra]tive, singing the title role to great critical acclaim, as well as appearing in concert with, amongst others, Café Zimmerman in Nice Cathedral (Pergolesi *Stabat Mater*) and La Chapelle Rhénane (*St Matthew Passion*).

Future plans include further performances of *Rinaldo*, the **title role** in Stradella's *San Giovanni Battista* with Le Banquet Céleste, **Unulfo Rodelinda** at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées with Le Concert d'Astrée/Emmanuelle Haïm, **Marte** *La Divisione del mondo* and **Ottone Agrippina** with Les Talens Lyriques/Christophe Rousset, **Nireno** *Guilio Cesare* with Opera North, and his debut at La Comédie Française, singing in performances of *La Nuit des rois* (Twelfth Night) from this September right through to February 2019.