

## SAIMIR PIRGU

*Tenor*

Born in 1981, he begins his musical studies in 1988 at the Liceo d'Arte in his hometown Elbasan (Albania) as a violinist and continues studying singing at the Conservatories of Tirana and Bolzano, with Vito Brunetti, who still is his teacher. After moving to Italy, he wins in 2002 the International Competition "Enrico Caruso" in Milan and the "Tito Schipa" International Competition in Lecce. He makes his debut at the Rossini Opera Festival with *Il viaggio a Reims* and *Adina*. Thereafter he starts an important collaboration with the Wiener Staatsoper, winning the prestigious prize "Eberhard Waechter Gesangsmedaille" with *L'elisir d'amore*.

In Ferrara he sings *Così fan tutte* directed by Claudio Abbado and at the Salzburger Festspiele with Philippe Jordan. Important debuts follow, bringing the young artist to the major opera houses throughout the world from the Hamburgische Staatsoper, to the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, from the Berlin Staatsoper, to the Teatro dell'Opera and Accademia Santa Cecilia in Rome. He sings at the Opernhaus in Zurich, at the Covent Garden, at the Teatro Real in Madrid and at the San Carlo in Lisbon; he makes his debut in Valencia, at the Teatro Comunale in Bologna and at the Amsterdam's Concertgebouw.

He has already collaborated with conductors like Claudio Abbado, Lorin Maazel, Daniele Gatti, Seiji Ozawa, Franz Welser Möst, Gustav Kuhn, James Colon, Antonio Pappano and Nikolaus Harnoncourt.

Among his principal roles it is worth mentioning Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*), *Elisir d'Amore* (Nemorino), Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*), *Falstaff* (Fenton), Alfredo Germont (*La Traviata*), Rigoletto (*Il Duca di Mantova*). He just sang the role of Idomeneo at the Styriarte FestivalSteirische in Graz, conducted and directed by Harnoncourt. He just made his US debut singing Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* at the Los Angeles Opera, Woody Allen directing.

Highlights of his future engagements include: *La Traviata* Santa Fe Opera Festival, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Théâtre Municipal de Lausanne, Opéra Royal de Wallonie in Liège, Teatro del Maggio Musicale in Florence, *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Sir Edgardo di Ravenswood) at the Hamburgische Staatsoper, *Gianni Schicchi* (Rinuccio) at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, Alfano's *Cyrano* (Christian) at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, *Così fan tutte* at the Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse, *Rigoletto* (Duca di Mantova) at the Opernhaus in Zürich and *Die Schoepfung* at the Opera Nomori in Tokio.

Concerning his future concert activity, it is worth mentioning Mozart's *Requiem* at the Lingotto Auditorium in Turin with Claudio Abbado and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Berlioz's *Requiem op.5* with the Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna and Bertrand de Billy at the Musikeverein in Vienna.

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