

MARCELLO GIORDANI

Marcello Giordani, tenor

“... he is, arguably, the greatest leading tenor of his generation” – “Opera News”, March 2008

Marcello Giordani has been hailed by the international press as one of the most important tenors on the opera stage today. He has appeared in all of the world's major opera houses and has sung with many of today's most renowned conductors. His exceptional versatility and vocal range have allowed him to encompass a vast repertory, from the Bel Canto operas of Rossini, Donizetti and Bellini and the lyricism of the French operatic repertoire, to the more dramatic roles of Verdi, Puccini and Berlioz and, most recently, the popular Verismo operas of Mascagni and Leoncavallo: *Cavalleria Rusticana e I Pagliacci*.

Giordani's schedule for the 2011-12 opera season includes *Tosca* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin; *Trovatore* and *Carmen* at the Teatro Massimo Bellini of Catania; and *Carmen* again at the new Royal Opera House Muscat of Oman. He begins 2012 with *Aida* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, followed by *Ernani* and *Madama Butterfly* at the Metropolitan Opera, *Cavalleria Rusticana* at the Opéra National de Paris, and *Tosca* at the Wiener Staatsoper. Verdi's *Ernani* will be transmitted live in HD from the stage of the Metropolitan to participating cinemas throughout the world on February 25, 2012.

On the concert stage, he will appear with soprano Ildikó Komlósi at the Palace of the Arts in Budapest in September 2011. The following month, he will be joined by soprano Angela Meade and young singers from the Marcello Giordani Vocal Competition for an evening of opera arias to benefit the Marcello Giordani Foundation. In December, he will travel to St. Petersburg, Russia, to participate as a guest artist in Dimitri Hvorostovsky's "Dimitri and Friends".

His most recent successes during the 2010-2011 season include his debut in the role of Radames in a season-opening production of Verdi's *Aida* at the San Francisco Opera; Rodolfo in Puccini's *La Bohème* at the Teatro Massimo Bellini of Catania; and his debut in the role of the Mexican bandit Ramerrez, in Giancarlo del Monaco's production of Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* which marked the 100th Anniversary of the world premiere of the opera at the Met. In January 2011, Giordani reprised the role of Ramerrez at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, and later in the year he made his debut in three different roles: Vasco da Gama in Meyerbeer's *L'Africaine* in a concert version with Opera Orchestra of New York; Turiddu in Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Canio in *Pagliacci*, in a *Cav/Pag* double bill at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona. He finished the season as Cavaradossi in Puccini's *Tosca* at the Wiener Staatsoper.

The Spring of 2011 found him in his native Sicily to preside over the first "Marcello Giordani International Vocal Competition", promoted and instituted by the "Marcello Giordani Foundation", and held in Catania, Italy.

Highlights of the 2009-10 opera season were a revival of the 1995 Giancarlo del Monaco's production of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* at the Metropolitan Opera, where he performed the tenor role of Gabriele Adorno alongside Plácido Domingo in the title role; a new production of *Tosca* by

Luc Bondy, also at the Metropolitan, and a new production of Gounod's *Faust* at the Teatro alla Scala. The Summer of 2010 also saw Giordani's debut as Pollione in Bellini's *Norma* at the Salzburg Festival, and his appearance in concert at the Tuscan Sun Festival in Cortona, Italy. Off the stage, Giordani conducted Master Classes at the Manhattan School of Music in New York and at the Vero Beach Opera in Vero Beach, Florida. In December 2009, he participated as a teacher in a study course for young opera singers developed on his own initiative under the sponsorship of the Teatro Bellini of Catania.

A major event which took place in the Spring of 2010 was the inauguration in New York of the "Marcello Giordani Foundation", a not for profit organization dedicated to the help and support of young opera singers.

Born in Augusta, Sicily, in 1963, Marcello Giordani began his voice studies in 1983 in Catania, and then in Milan. In 1986, he won the singing competition of Spoleto, and that same year he made his professional debut as the Duke in *Rigoletto* at the Festival of Spoleto in Italy. His debut in the United States was in the role of Nadir in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* at the Portland Opera during the 1988-89 season. Two major debuts followed, Teatro alla Scala in 1988 as Rodolfo in *La Bohème* and the Metropolitan Opera as Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore* in 1993.

Other early milestones of his career include his debuts as Gabriele Adorno in *Simon Boccanegra* at the Royal Opera of London under the direction of Sir Georg Solti (1997); with the Munich Philharmonic in *La Damnation de Faust* (1999) under the direction of Maestro Levine; and with Opera Orchestra of New York (OONY) at Carnegie Hall in *Lucrezia Borgia* (2000). In 2001 he became the first Italian in the history of the Metropolitan Opera to sing the role of Lenski in *Eugene Onegin* in Russian.

Of his performance as Maurizio in *Adriana Lecouvreur* with OONY in 2002 the New York Times wrote: "Marcello Giordani sang like a god". Also to be noted are his performances in the title roles of the Metropolitan Opera's premiere productions of Bellini's *Il Pirata* (2002) and of Berlioz' masterpiece, *Benvenuto Cellini* (2003); his debut in 2004 in the role of Enzo in a concert version of *La Gioconda* with OONY, where his interpretation of the aria "Cielo e mar" received a four-minute ovation and was declared "sensational" by the New York Times; and his performance in 2006 as Arnold in OONY's concert performance of *Guillaume Tell*, where the audience stopped the show following his execution of the cabaletta "Amis, amis secondez ma vengeance".

In the Fall of 2006, Giordani opened the new season at the Metropolitan Opera as Pinkerton in the company's new production of *Madama Butterfly* conceived and directed by the late movie director Anthony Minghella. He opened the Met season again in 2007 as Edgardo in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, in a new production by Tony Award-winning director Mary Zimmerman, and that same year he made his debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in a concert performance of *La Damnation de Faust* conducted by James Levine. The following year saw his debuts in the title role of Verdi's *Ernani* at the Metropolitan; in the challenging role of Enée in a series of concert performances of Berlioz' *Les Troyens* with the Boston Symphony Orchestra under the direction of James Levine; and in Puccini's *Edgar* with Opera Orchestra of New York.

On April 20, 2008, Marcello appeared before Pope Benedict XVI to sing "Panis Angelicus" by César Franck during the Papal Mass at Yankee Stadium in New York. "A day I will never forget," he declared.

During the 2008-09 opera season at the Met, Giordani participated in a pre-season performance of Verdi's *Requiem* conducted by James Levine in memory of Luciano Pavarotti; sang the title role in Berlioz' *La Damnation de Faust* in a new production by Canadian director Robert Lepage; and reprised the role of Pinkerton in Minghella's production of *Madama Butterfly* which was broadcast as part of the the Met's "Live on HD" series. On November 22nd, after singing the title role in the

matinee performance of *La Damnation de Faust*, he appeared as Pinkerton in the evening performance of *Madama Butterfly*, adding his name to those handful of singers who have sung two leading roles on the same day at the Met. Appearances in Europe during the same season included *La Forza del Destino* and *Roméo et Juliette* at the Vienna Staatsoper; *Simon Boccanegra* at the Gran Teatre del Liceo in Barcelona and in a concert performance with the Boston Symphony Orchestra; *Andrea Chénier* at the Teatro Carlo Felice of Genoa; *Turandot* at the Hungarian State Opera of Budapest; *Ernani* at the Teatro Massimo Bellini of Catania; and a performance of Verdi's *Requiem* in Rome with the Orchestra and Chorus of the Teatro alla Scala. He concluded the season as Cavaradossi in a production of *Tosca* at the Royal Opera House.

In addition to his appearances on the opera stage, Giordani has frequently appeared in concerts and recitals both in Europe and in the U.S. He has been a frequent guest star on the nationally televised Richard Tucker Gala, and was the guest soloist at St. Patrick's Cathedral's midnight mass on Christmas Eve. He sang for two consecutive years (2006 and 2007) at the Columbus Day Parade held in New York City and broadcast by the major TV stations in the US and Italy.

Marcello Giordani's discography includes the first studio recording of Verdi's *Jérusalem* for Philips, and 3 solo recordings: *Tenor Arias* (Naxos), featuring arias by Bellini, Bizet, Donizetti, Mascagni, Rossini, and Verdi, among others; *Sicilia Bella* (VAI) a collection of songs of authors from his native Sicily; and a new CD of Neapolitan and Italian songs titled *Ti voglio tanto bene* dedicated to the great Italian tenors of the past and featuring classical Italian and Neapolitan songs. He is also featured on *Many Voices*, a compilation of songs by composer Steven Mercurio on Sony Classical.

On DVD, Giordani can be seen in Franco Zeffirelli's 2004 production of *Madama Butterfly* from the Arena di Verona (2004); in *La Bohème* from the Opernhaus Zürich (2005); in *La Gioconda*, from the Teatro Bellini of Catania (2006); in *La Forza del Destino* by the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, filmed live in HD from the stage of the Teatro Comunale of Florence, Italy, in 2007; and in four Metropolitan Opera productions filmed in HD and broadcast live on the HD international network, *Manon Lescaut*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Simon Boccanegra* and *Turandot*.

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