



Cameron Shahbazi

Countertenor

Rising countertenor Cameron Shahbazi, praised for his “full, voluminous” voice and “personal and beautiful” timbre (*De Trouw*), is celebrated for his acclaimed interpretations of both baroque and contemporary music. In 2023, he was awarded the prestigious Opus Klassik Award in the ‘Innovative Concert of the Year’ category for his brainchild entitled “Woman.Life.Freedom.”, a benefit concert at Oper Frankfurt produced in support of human rights in Iran.

The 2024-25 season marks numerous exciting projects for Cameron Shahbazi. The countertenor makes his much-anticipated house debut at the Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona as Tolomeo in ***Giulio Cesare*** in a production by Calixto Bieto. With the Vancouver Opera, he makes his house and role debut as The Refugee in Jonathan Dove’s ***Flight***. Building on the great success of George Benjamin’s new opera ***Picture a day like this*** staged by Daniel Jeanneteau and Marie-Christine Soma, Shahbazi thrice presents the acclaimed interpretation: at the Opéra Comique in Paris, Opéra national du Rhin, and at the Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg. Together with pianist Sophia Muñoz, Cameron Shahbazi sings a recital of arias by Handel and Purcell, traditional tunes, and Iranian songs. The concert takes place under the auspices of Les Lundis Musicaux in Paris.

Highlights of Cameron Shahbazi’s recent seasons include his role and house debut of Hamor in Handel’s ***Jephta*** at the Royal Opera House in London. He sang the role of Tolomeo in ***Giulio Cesare*** in new productions at Glyndebourne Festival (David McVicar) and at Dutch National Opera (Calixto Bieto) in Amsterdam under the baton of Emmanuelle Haïm. Cameron Shahbazi made his company debut with the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich as Anfinomo in ***Il ritorno/The Year of Magical Thinking***, a new production of Monteverdi’s opera combined with text by renowned American writer Joan Didion. At Festival Aix-en-Provence, the countertenor was featured in the world premiere of ***Picture a Day Like This*** by George Benjamin. With this production he later made his house debut at the Linbury Theater in London, which was subsequently nominated for an Olivier Award. With short notice, Cameron Shahbazi jumped in as Tolomeo (***Tolomeo, Re di Egitto***) with the Basel Chamber Orchestra for two concerts at Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw and the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona.

A sought-after concert performer, Shahbazi sang Carl Orff’s ***Carmina Burana*** with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic, Pergolesi’s ***Stabat Mater*** with Orchestre de l’Opéra Royal in Versailles, and George Benjamin’s acclaimed ***Dream of the Song*** for countertenor and female chorus with the Gürzenich Orchestra in Cologne. Following the invitation to the Leipzig Bach Festival, the countertenor paid tribute to the genius composer in a grand open-air gala alongside Lang Lang, Daniel Hope, and the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig. He returned to his native Canada to sing Handel’s ***Messiah*** at Toronto’s



Koerner Hall, and with the Orchestre National de Lille he performed George Benjamin's ***Written on Skin*** in concert under the baton of Alexandre Bloch. The countertenor presented solo recitals under the auspices of Oper Frankfurt with pianist Malcolm Martineau and at the Paris Sainte Chapelle Opera Festival with pianist Jeff Cohen.

Further highlights include his debut at Oper Frankfurt as Oberon in a new production of ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** and his involvement at Internationale Handel-Festspiele Karlsruhe where he took on the title role in ***Tolomeo, re d'Egitto*** in a production by Benjamin Lazar. In 2021, Shahbazi gave his Russian debut as Tolomeo in ***Giulio Cesare*** with the Moscow Chamber Ensemble, conducted by Christopher Moulds. His portrayal of First Angel/Boy in George Benjamin's opera ***Written on Skin*** at Oper Köln under François-Xavier Roth earned the countertenor unanimous critical acclaim. Also in Cologne, the countertenor sang Guildenstern in a new production of composer Brett Dean's ***Hamlet*** under the baton of Duncan Ward. As an associate artist of the Dutch National Opera Studio in the 2019/20 season, he created the role of Sergey Diaghilev in Willem Jeth's new opera ***Ritratto***, which was one of *The Guardian's* top picks of opera and classical concerts to watch during the first COVID-19 lockdown. Further performances include the role of Disinganno in Handel's ***Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno*** at Theater Aachen, and the title role in Cavalli's ***Il Giasone*** for Opera NEO.

Cameron Shahbazi has received distinguished international honors such as the Sylva Gelber Award (2021), the Walter Prsytański Prize (2021) and the Dame Kiri Te Kanawa Foundation Award (2019). He was a finalist at the 2019 Veronica Dunne International Singing Competition, was awarded the Royal Opera House Covent Garden Prize at the 2018 International Belvedere Competition, Second Prize at Innsbruck's Cesti Competition in 2018, and top prizes at the 2017 Opéra Avignon Jeunes Espoirs Competition.

Hamilton-born, Shahbazi is an alumnus of the University of Toronto and Conservatorium van Amsterdam, and a grateful recipient of grants from the Jacqueline Desmarais Foundation and Staatsfonds.

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Season 2024-2025

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Personal Direction:

CENTRE STAGE ARTIST MANAGEMENT

For more information about **Cameron Shahbazi** please visit his website at

www.cameronshahbazi.com