

The golden voice from Malta

by  **Ján Korecký,**
Promoter,
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The young Maltese tenor, Joseph Calleja, is already known around the world. He is arguably today's finest lyric tenor on the world's leading opera and concert stages. In June, we will be welcoming him to Bratislava.

Calleja was only 19 when he made his operatic debut as Macduff in Verdi's *Macbeth* at the Astra Theatre in Malta, shortly before winning an award in the Hans Gabor Belvedere Competition. He went on to win the 1998 Caruso Competition in Milan and was a prize winner in Plácido Domingo's *Operalia* in 1999.

Since then, Calleja has gone on to appear with most of the world's great opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, Vienna State Opera, Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu, Dresden's Semperoper, the Frankfurt Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, and Munich's Bavarian State Opera.

Having sung an impressive 28 leading roles to date, he is noted for his portrayals of Verdi's Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto* and Alfredo in *La Traviata*; Rodolfo in Puccini's *La Bohème* and B. F. Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*; Donizetti's Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Nemorino in *L'elisir d'amore*, and Leicester in *Maria Stuarda*; the title characters of Gounod's *Faust* and *Roméo et Juliette*; Tebaldo in Bellini's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*; and Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*.

Highlights from recent operatic seasons include the title characters in new productions of *Faust* and *Tales of Hoffmann* at the Metropolitan Opera; Alfredo in *La Traviata* opposite Renée Fleming, Adorno in *Simon Boccanegra* alongside Plácido

Domingo, and another turn in the title role of *Faust* at Covent Garden; new productions of *La Bohème*, opposite Anna Netrebko, and *La Traviata* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago; *Maria Stuarda* alongside Joyce DiDonato in concerts with the Deutsche Oper Berlin; and a new staging of *Rigoletto* at the Bavarian State Opera.

Calleja appears extensively in concerts throughout the world, singing with leading orchestras at summer festivals, including Salzburg, and in outdoor concerts in front of tens of thousands of people in Malta, Paris, and Munich. After co-headlining 2012's Last Night of the BBC Proms, Calleja returned to the London Festival in 2013 for a gala performance at the Royal Albert Hall and an open-air concert marking the Last Night of the Proms in Hyde Park.

During the 2014-15 season, he returned to the Met for *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Macbeth*, the latter of which co-stars Zeljko Lucic and Netrebko. In the coming season, at the Royal Opera House Calleja makes his role debut as Riccardo in a new production of Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* and reunites with Netrebko for *La Bohème*; and at Deutsche Oper Berlin he sings Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and portrays Ruggero in Rolando Villazón's new staging of Puccini's *La rondine*.

As an exclusive Decca Classics recording artist since 2003, the tenor boasts an extensive discography that includes complete operas and concert repertoire, as well as five solo albums: *The Golden Voice*, *Tenor Arias*, *The Maltese Tenor*, *Be My Love: A Tribute to Mario Lanza*, and *Amore*.



Born in Malta in 1978, Joseph Calleja began singing at the age of 16. Calleja was selected to serve as Malta's first cultural ambassador in 2012. He was voted Gramophone Magazine's 2012 Artist of the Year and won the 2014 International Opera Awards' Readers' Award.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

2. 12. 2015
Pressburger
Weihnachten
- Janoska Ensemble

9. 12. 2015
Christmas concert
of Simona Šaturová

10. 2. 2016
Juan Diego Florez



More information
can be found at
www.kapos.sk



Joseph Calleja as Rodolfo in *La bohème* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York
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