

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. In demand by the world's major opera houses, Giordani has appeared repeatedly at the Metropolitan Opera of New York, the Teatro alla Scala of Milan, the Royal Opera House of London, the Vienna Staatsoper, the Deutsche Oper of Berlin, the Opéra National of Paris, the Opernhaus Zürich, the Arena di Verona, the Teatro Real of Madrid, the Gran Teatre del Liceu di Barcelona, the Teatro Massimo Bellini of Catania, and many others. His exceptional versatility and vocal extension have allowed him to encompass a vast repertory, running the gamut 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 and Puccini. More recently, he has also undertaken the great vocal works of Berlioz, such as *La damnation de Faust* and *Les Troyens*.

Giordani's future opera performances for the remainder of the 2009-10 season include a revival of the 1995 production by Giancarlo del Monaco of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* at the Metropolitan Opera, where he will perform the tenor role of Gabriele Adorno next to Placido Domingo in the title role; a new production of *Tosca* by Luc Bondi, also at the Metropolitan; *La Bohème* at the Teatro Massimo of Palermo; *Faust* at the Teatro alla Scala of Milan; and a reprise of the role of Gabriele Adorno in *Simon Boccanegra* at the Teatro Real of Madrid. In addition to his appearances on the opera stage, Giordani will also appear in concerts at the Vero Beach Opera and at Opera Tampa in Florida. Off the stage, Giordani will offer three Master Classes: at the Manhattan School of Music in January; at the Vero Beach Opera in March; and at Opera Tampa in May.

Earlier in the 2009-10 season, Giordani appeared in Puccini's *Turandot* at the LVII Festival de Opera de A Coruña and at the Metropolitan Opera; and in *Un Ballo in maschera* at the Wiener Staatsoper. In December, he participated, as a member of the teaching faculty, in the biennial course of the new “Academy of advanced specialization for opera singers” established by the “Musical Association A.S.A.L.onlus” under the patronage of the Teatro Massimo Bellini of Catania, Sicily.

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. He made his debut at Teatro alla Scala of Milan as Rodolfo in *La Bohème* in 1988, and at the Metropolitan Opera of New York as Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore* in 1993.

Other important milestones in Marcello Giordani's career include his debut as Gabriele Adorno in *Simon Boccanegra* at the Royal Opera of London under the direction of Sir Georg Solti (1997); his debut with the Munich Philharmonic in *La Damnation de Faust* (1999) under the direction of Maestro Levine; and his debut 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 of the title roles in the Metropolitan Opera's premiere productions of Bellini's *Il Pirata* (2002) and of Berlioz' masterpiece, *Benvenuto Cellini* (2003). The following years saw his debuts in Verdi's *Il Trovatore* at the Houston Grand Opera (2004), and in *Andrea Chénier* at the Macerata Summer Festival (2005). In 2004, he made his debut 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. In 2006 he sang the role of Arnold in OONY's concert performance of *Guillaume Tell*, and his interpretation proved such a triumph that when the audience stopped the show at his execution of the cabaletta "Amis, amis secondez ma vengeance", he repeated the cabaletta and received a standing ovation. That same year, he made his debut in Verdi's *Don Carlo* at the Teatro Regio of Turin, and celebrated the 20th anniversary of his professional debut with a special concert in his honor at the Teatro Bellini of Catania.

In the Fall of 2006, Giordani opened for the first time the new season at the Metropolitan Opera as Pinkerton in the company's new production of *Madama Butterfly* conceived and directed by the renowned movie director Anthony Minghella. He opened the Met season again the following year as Edgardo in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, in a new production by Tony Award-winning director Mary Zimmerman.

Highlights of the 2006-07 season include his debut as Paolo il Bello in Zandonai's *Francesca da Rimini*, and his debut with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in a concert performance of *La Damnation de Faust* conducted by James Levine. In the summer of 2007, Giordani appeared again in *La damnation de Faust* with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in Tanglewood, and then joined the BSO and Maestro Levine in a tour that brought Berlioz' opera to four European cities: Lucerne, Essen, Paris and London. In the Fall of 2008, he made two unscheduled appearances on the Met's stage as Roméo in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* and as Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, replacing the scheduled tenors on a few hours' notice. Later in the year, he made his debut in Verdi's *La Forza del destino* at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in Florence, Italy, under the direction of Zubin Mehta.

One of the most significant events in Marcello Giordani's professional and personal life took place on the occasion of the visit to New York of Pope Benedict XVI on April 20, 2008. On that day, Giordani appeared before the Pope to sing "Panis Angelicus" by César Franck during the Papal Mass in Yankee Stadium, and also sang "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's *Turandot* at the pre-Mass show. It was, in Marcello's own words, "A day I will never forget".

The Spring of 2008 also 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. In the Summer, he participated in the "Divas in Beijing Concert Series" hailed as one of the most prestigious events of the 2008 Olympic Games, featuring some of the world's leading opera singers.

Highlights of the 2008-09 opera season at the Metropolitan Opera were Giordani's participation in a pre-season performance of Verdi's *Requiem* conducted by James Levine in memory of Luciano Pavarotti; his assumption of the title role in Berlioz' *La Damnation de Faust* in a new production by Canadian director Robert Lepage; and a reprise of 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. In addition to his scheduled performances at the Met, Marcello Giordani stepped in for an ailing colleague as Pinkerton in four performances of *Madama Butterfly*, and on November 22nd, after singing the title role in the matinée performance of *La Damnation de Faust*, he reappeared as Pinkerton in the

evening performance of *Madama Butterfly*, adding his name to those of a handful of singers who have sung two leading roles on the same day at the Met.

In Europe, during the same season, he appeared in Verdi's *La Forza del destino* and in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* at the Vienna Staatsoper; in *Simon Boccanegra* at the Gran Teatre del Liceo in Barcelona, and in a concert performance with the Boston Symphony Orchestra; in *Andrea Chénier* at the Teatro Carlo Felice of Genoa; in *Turandot* at the Hungarian State Opera of Budapest; in Verdi's *Ernani* at the Teatro Massimo Bellini of Catania; and in a performance of Verdi's *Requiem* in Rome with the Orchestra and Chorus of the Teatro alla Scala. He concluded the season in July as Cavaradossi in a much acclaimed production of *Tosca* at the Royal Opera House. In December 2008, he conducted a Master Class at Città della Notte, a new center for the arts in his native city of Augusta, followed by an end-of-the-year concert at the Teatro Massimo Bellini.

The summer of 2009 saw him in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* at the festival of Torre del Lago, and in *Tosca* at the Arena di Verona.

Giordani's recent appearances on the concert stage include a Gala Concert at the Festival de Opera de A Coruña, Spain; a "Liederabend" (recital with piano accompaniment) at the Opernhaus Zürich; a recital at the Centro de Bellas Artes, in San Juan, Puerto Rico; a concert of the "Superstar Concert Series" at the Florida Grand Opera of Miami; a tribute to Luciano Pavarotti at the Fresno Grand Opera in Fresno, Florida; and a concert of the series Ciclo Grandes Voices at the Teatro Real of Madrid. He was a participant artist in the 125th Anniversary Gala of the Metropolitan.

Giordani has been a frequent guest star on the nationally televised Richard Tucker Gala, and the guest artist at St. Patrick's Cathedral for the nationally televised Christmas midnight mass. He has also sung for two consecutive years (2006 and 2007) in the Columbus Day Parade held in New York City and broadcast by the major TV stations in the US and Italy. His appearance before the Pope in April 2008 was broadcast on national television in the US and abroad.

Marcello Giordani's discography includes the first studio recording of Verdi's *Jérusalem* for Philips, and two solo recordings: the first, on Naxos, features tenor arias by Bellini, Bizet, Donizetti, Mascagni, Rossini, and Verdi, among others, and the second on VAI, entitled *Sicilia Bella*, features classical songs from Giordani's native Sicily. He is also featured on *Many Voices*, a compilation of songs by composer Steven Mercurio on Sony Classical. In program for distribution in 2010 is a new CD of Neopolitan and Italian songs by the title of "Ti voglio tanto bene" dedicated to the great Italian tenors of the past.

On DVD, Giordani can be seen in Franco Zeffirelli's 2004 production of *Madama Butterfly* from the Arena di Verona (2004); in a production of *La Bohème* from the Opernhaus Zürich (2005); in a production of *La Gioconda*, from the Teatro Bellini of Catania (2006); in a new production of *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 the Metropolitan opera production of *Manon Lescaut* filmed in HD in 2008 and broadcast live on the HD international network. The Metropolitan Opera's "Live on HD" broadcasts of *Madama Butterfly*, *La Damnation de Faust* and *Turandot* will be released on DVD in 2010.

Last update: December 2009