

## JONAS KAUFMANN. TENOR BIOGRAPHY

Born in Munich, Germany, tenor Jonas Kaufmann is now internationally recognized as one of the most important artists of our day. He has made sensational débuts in recent seasons at many of the world's leading opera houses, appearing at the Royal Opera Covent Garden in *La Rondine* opposite Angela Gheorghiu and in the 2007 new production of *Carmen* under Antonio Pappano. He has also appeared as Alfredo in *La Traviata* at the Metropolitan Opera and the Lyric Opera of Chicago, as well as in the new productions of the work at Paris's Opéra-Bastille in 2007 and at the Teatro Alla Scala in Milan. He has sung Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, the Vienna State Opera and the Metropolitan Opera, as Belmonte in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* at the Salzburg Festival, and as Faust in *La Damnation de Faust* at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels. Highlights of the 2007/2008 season included *La Traviata* opposite Anna Netrebko and his first Cavaradossi in *Tosca* under Antonio Pappano, both at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Rodolfo in *La Bohème* at both the Berlin State Opera under Gustavo Dudamel and at the Zurich Opera, where he was also heard in new productions of Humperdinck's *Koenigskinder* and *Carmen* as well as in *La Traviata* and *Don Carlos*. In January of 2008 Jonas Kaufmann's first solo album for DECCA titled "Romantic Arias" became an immediate international best seller. The release was followed in February of 2008 by solo operatic concerts in Munich and Hamburg. In July of 2008 he sang a

tremendously acclaimed recital at the Prinzregententheater in Munich.

Jonas Kaufmann began the 2008/2009 with his first performances of Des Grieux in *Manon* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago opposite Natalie Dessay, followed by his return to Paris as Florestan in the new production of *Fidelio* for the Opéra National de Paris and a recital, both at the Palais Garnier. In January of 2009 Kaufmann sang the Italian Tenor in the production of *Der Rosenkavalier* under Christian Thielemann in Baden Baden. He will return to the Zurich Opera in a new production of *Tosca* staged by Robert Carsen and conducted by Christoph von Dohnányi. Kaufmann will also sing *La Traviata* in Zurich, after which he will return to the Vienna State Opera in *Manon* and *Tosca*. In July of 2009 Kaufmann will sing his first performances of the title role in *Lohengrin* in a new production at the Bavarian State Opera produced by Richard Jones and conducted by Kent Nagano. He will also appear there in *La Traviata* opposite Angela Gheorghiu. The current season has included solo operatic concerts in January 2009 at the Mannheim Rosengarten, the Berlin Philharmonic Hall, at the Megaron in Athens, Greece, and at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in March. Kaufmann made his début in Moscow in December of 2008 in a concert along with Dmitri Hvorostovsky, and also sang Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with the Munich Philharmonic conducted by Christian Thielemann. He dedicates part of each year to song recitals and this season is partnered by renowned pianist, Helmut Deutsch, in recitals in Paris, at the Palais Garnier, the Opera House in Zurich, the Vienna Konzerthaus, the

Glyptoteket in Copenhagen, The Nationaltheater in Munich, and at the Haus für Mozart at the Salzburg Festival.

Jonas Kaufmann completed his musical studies in his native Munich, participated in masterclasses with James King, Hans Hotter and Joseph Metternich and subsequently perfected his vocal technique with Michael Rhodes. He began his professional career at the State Theatre in Saarbrücken in 1994 and was soon invited to make débuts in such important German theaters as the Stuttgart Opera, the Hamburg State Opera as well as international débuts at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Paris Opéra and the Teatro alla Scala in Milan.

He made his Salzburg Festival début in 1999 in a new production of Busoni's *Dr. Faust* and returned there in 2003 as Belmonte and for concerts of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Berlin Philharmonic. Kaufmann has been closely associated with the Zurich Opera since 2001; he has appeared there in several new productions which have included *Idomeneo*, *La Clemenza di Tito*, Schubert's *Fierrabras*, Humperdinck's *Koenigskinder*, Bizet's *Carmen* and Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*. Other roles in Zurich have included the Duke in *Rigoletto*, the title role in Gounod's *Faust*, Florestan in *Fidelio*, Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte* and Belmonte in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. In 2006 he sang his first performances of the title role of Wagner's *Parsifal* in Zurich followed by his début in 2007 there as Don Carlos. In 2006 Kaufmann also sang his first Walther von Stolzing in a concert performance of *Die Meistersinger* at the Edinburgh Festival conducted by David Robertson. He had

previously been heard in Edinburgh as Max in *Der Freischütz* under Sir Charles Mackerras.

Jonas Kaufmann has appeared with some of the world's leading conductors and orchestras. Among these engagements are performances with the Berlin Philharmonic under both Sir Simon Rattle and Nikolaus Harnoncourt, the Cleveland Orchestra under Franz Welser-Möst and the Vienna Philharmonic under Helmuth Rilling. In the summer of 2007 he sang Beethoven's Symphony No.9 in Lucerne under Claudio Abbado and subsequently made his Carnegie Hall début in October of 2007 in the same work.. In 2008 he also performed with the Cleveland Orchestra in Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with Franz Welser-Möst, in Verdi's Requiem in Zurich under Daniele Gatti. His recitals of the song Literature have received high praise throughout Europe as well as in Japan.

In the autumn of 2009 Jonas Kaufmann will return to the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in *Don Carlos* under Semyon Bychkov. He will open the 2009 season at the Teatro alla Scala in a new production of *Carmen* under Daniel Barenboim and will also sing the Verdi Requiem with La Scala in Milan, Paris and Moscow. Kaufmann will sing the new production of *Tosca* at the Bavarian State Opera where he also sings *Lohengrin* and *Carmen*. He will add the title role in Massenet's *Werther* to his repertoire for the Opéra National in Paris and returns to the Metropolitan Opera in *Tosca* and *Carmen*. In July of 2010, Kaufmann will make his Bayreuth Festival début in a new production of *Lohengrin*.