

Yannis François

Bass-Baritone Dancer

Born in Guadeloupe, Yannis François began his career as a dancer with Lena Blou. He entered the École-Atelier Rudra Béjart in Lausanne and later became a member of the Béjart Ballet (Compagnie M). During the singing lessons which were a part of this dance school studies, Maurice Béjart was impressed by Yannis' voice and encouraged him to fully explore a singing career parallel to the ballet. He studied with Gary Magby and was graduated with his master's degree in Classical Singing at the Conservatoire de Lausanne (CH).

On the opera stage, Yannis has sung the title role in *Don Giovanni* by Mozart, Curio in *Giulio Cesare* beside Andreas Scholl, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer night's dream* by Britten, Sasha in *Moscow Cheryomushki* by Shostakovitch, Melisso in *Alcina* by Händel, Isacius in *Richardus Primus* by Telemann (Giessen, Michael Hofstetter), Seneca in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* and Plutone in Monteverdi's *Orfeo* both with Leonardo Garcia Alarcón, the title-role in *Eights Songs for a Mad King* by Peter Maxwell Davies, Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas* in *Staatsoper Berlin* (Sasha Walz, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin), Le chef des Matelots in *Alcione* by Marais conducted by Jordi Savall in Opéra de Versailles, Gaveston in *La Dame Blanche* by Boieldieu.

In concert, he sang the Bass Solo part in several oratorios such as *Mass in B minor* (Vaclav Luks, Collegium 1704), *Johannes-Passion* by J.S Bach (Ton Koopman), Schumann's *Das Paradies und die Peri*, and this season Mozart's *Requiem* in Philharmonie de Paris. He has appeared as a soloist with other conductors such as Ottavio Dantone, Gabriel Garrido, Christina Pluhar, Paul Agnew, Sébastien Daucé, Lars Ulrich Mortensen, among others.

From 2019 Yannis is mentored by Barbara Hannigan in her Equilibrium Young Artists programme and sang Nick Shadow in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* by Stravinski in Brussels, California, and Aldeburgh, conducted by Hannigan herself.

One of his projects in 2021 is Lucifer in *Cain overo Il Primo Omicidio* by Scarlatti at Salzburg Festival, conducted by Philippe Jaroussky.

Next season he will sing Mercury in *Cupid and Death* by Matthew Locke with Ensemble Correspondances (Sebastien Daucé) in Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord and Opéra de Caen, then in *Le Malade imaginaire* (Charpentier) and *Le Mariage forcé* (Lully) with Le Concert Spirituel (Hervé Niquet).

Given his passion and knowledge in forgotten or rare music repertoires, Yannis is regularly hired to research and create CD programmes for artists such as Jakub Józef Orliński (*Anima Sacra, Facce d'Amore, Anima Aeterna*), Philippe Jaroussky (*La Vanità del mondo*), Julie Fuchs (*Mademoiselle*), Michael Spyres, Jeanine de Bique, Bruno de Sà (*Roma Travestita*), Lea Desandre (*Amazone*).

He is the founder of Editions Charybde & Scylla.

