

RAMÓN VARGAS – Tenor

One of the leading tenors of our time and one of the most sought-after worldwide, Ramón Vargas was born in Mexico City. He studied at the Cardenal Miranda Institute of his hometown, with Antonio Lopez and Ricardo Sanchez. In 1982, after winning the Carlo Morelli National Vocal Competition, he made his debut in Haydn's *Lo Speziale*, in Monterrey, Mexico. His breakthrough came in 1983, when the Mexican conductor Eduardo Mata hired him to sing Fenton in Verdi's *Falstaff*, and then Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. Upon winning the Enrico Caruso Tenor Competition in Milan, in 1986, he moved to Austria, where he completed his vocal studies at the school of the Wiener Staatsoper, under the guidance of Leo Müller. After deciding to become a freelancer in 1990, he met in Milan the renowned teacher Rodolfo Celletti, who became his vocal coach.

Ramón Vargas' international debut took place in 1992, when the New York Metropolitan Opera asked him to sing Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* opposite June Anderson, substituting Luciano Pavarotti. This was soon followed by a debut on the stage of La Scala, in 1993, where he sang Fenton in Strehler's new production celebrating the centenary of *Falstaff*, conducted by Riccardo Muti. He regularly performs at all the major opera houses all over the world to great acclaim: Teatro Colón Buenos Aires (*La Favorita*), London Royal Opera House (*Un ballo in maschera*, *La bohème*, *Rigoletto*, *La traviata*), Teatro alla Scala di Milano (*Falstaff*, *Rigoletto*, *La traviata*, *Simon Boccanegra*), Metropolitan New York (*Attila*, *La bohème*, *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *La Cenerentola*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Rigoletto*, *Der Rosenkavalier*), Teatro Real de Madrid (*Werther*, *Un ballo in maschera*), Opéra National de Paris (*La clemenza di Tito*, *Rigoletto*, *La traviata*), San Francisco Opera (*Un ballo in maschera*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*), Vienna State Opera (*Don Carlo*, *La bohème*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Maria Stuarda*, *Roberto Devereux*), Arena di Verona (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Rigoletto*) and many others.

In addition to his operatic career, he is also an accomplished concert singer, with an extensive repertoire ranging from Italian classical songs to romantic German Lieder and melodies by French, Mexican and Spanish composers from the 19th and 20th centuries. In 1998 he gave a memorable recital at La Scala and his renditions of popular Mexican songs have been met with enthusiasm at massive concerts across Europe and Mexico.

He was awarded the Lauri Volpi Award for the Best Opera Singer of the 1993 Italian season, and in 1995 Italian critics were unanimous in decorating him with the Gino Tani Award for the Arts. In 2000, British Opera Now declared Ramón Vargas Artist of the Year. Each year, since 1999, Austrian Festspiele magazine has given him the first place among the best tenors in the world. In 2001, he received the ECHO Klassik - Singer of the Year Award from the German Phono Academy.

Ramón Vargas' multi-awarded discography includes Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *La scala di seta*, *Tancredi*, *Maometto II*, *Il Turco in Italia*; Donizetti's *La Favorite*; Bellini's *Zaira*, *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*; Massenet's *Werther*; Granados' *Goyescas*; Verdi's *Falstaff* and *Alzira*.

LATEST PERFORMANCES: *Giovanna d'Arco* at Opéra de Marseille; recital at Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse; *Tosca* at Odeon of Herodes Atticus in Athens; Mercadante's *Il proscritto* at Barbican Centre London; *Luisa Miller* at Staatsoper Hamburg; *Don Carlo* at Vienna State Opera; *Tosca* in Malaga; *Das Lied von der Erde* in Basel; *La Gioconda* at Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse; *Un ballo in maschera* at Teatro Real de Madrid, in Las Palmas and in Sevilla; *Roberto Devereux* in Los Angeles; *Les contes d'Hoffman* in Palma de Mallorca and at Teatro Colon de Buenos Aires; *Don Carlo* at Los Angeles Opera and Opernhaus Zürich; *I masnadieri* at Opéra de Monte-Carlo; *La bohème* at Staatsoper Berlin.

FORTHCOMING PROJECTS: *Simon Boccanegra* at Staatsoper Hamburg; *I lombardi alla prima crociata* at Opéra Royal de Wallonie; *La bohème* in Alicante; *Carmen* in Graz; *Norma* with Teatro Comunale di Bologna on tour in Japan; concert at Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse.

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