MICHELE PERTUSI - *Bass*

"As for Michele Pertusi, for this inexhaustible artist only adjectives have been exhausted.
Put it this simply, there are two ways of singing Verdi: his own and the wrong way."
(Alberto Mattioli on La Stampa about Pagano in "I lombardi alla prima crociata" at Festival Verdi Parma)

Acclaimed as one of the greatest singers in the present world lyric scene, Michele Pertusi was born in Parma, where he studied piano and singing at the Conservatory "A. Boito". Then he continued his studies with Arrigo Pola, Carlo Bergonzi and Rodolfo Celletti.

In February 2005 he won the Grammy Award for the Best Opera Recording in the title role of Verdi's *Falstaff*, with the London Symphony conducted by Sir Colin Davis (LSO LIVE). In 1995 he was awarded the "Abbiati International Prize". His recording of *Il turco in Italia* conducted by Riccardo Chailly for Decca was awarded the Gramophone Award. He has also been the recipient of the Golden Medal as Cultural Benemeritus by the President of the Italian Republic. In 2018 he was awarded the prestigious "Rodolfo Celletti" prize at Festival della Valle d'Itria in Martina Franca.

He collaborated with most of the world leading conductors, including Riccardo Muti, Carlo Maria Giulini, Zubin Metha, Georg Solti, Daniel Barenboim, James Levine, Kazushi Ono, Myung-Whun Chung and Antonio Pappano and he has appeared at the most important opera houses, concert houses and festivals all over the world.

In recent years Michele Pertusi has established himself as a outstanding interpreter of Verdi's roles such as Filippo II in *Don Carlo* (Vienna State Opera, Teatro Real Madrid, Festival Verdi, La Scala), *Attila* (La Scala, La Fenice Venice, Festival Verdi, Opéra de Liege), Pagano in *I Lombardi alla prima crociata* (Festival Verdi, Monte-Carlo), Sparafucile in *Rigoletto* (Festival Verdi, Vienna), Fiesco in *Simon Boccanegra* (Vienna, Turin, Parma), Padre Guardiano in *La forza del destino* (Liège, Lyon), Conte Walter in *Luisa Miller* (Bayerische Staatsoper Munich, Opera di Roma), Da Silva in *Ernani* (La Scala, Palermo, Venice), Massimiliano in *I masnadieri* (La Scala, Valencia), Zaccaria in *Nabucco* (Festival Verdi, Arena di Verona), Banco in *Macbeth* (Festival Verdi), Procida in *Les vêpres siciliennes* (Rome), Ramfis in *Aida* (Arena di Verona), and *Messa da Requiem* under the baton, among others, of Riccardo Chailly, Zubin Metha, Myung-Whun Chung, Daniele Gatti.

Refined and outstanding interpreter of Rossini's roles, Michele Pertusi is a regular guest of Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro, where he made his debut in 1992 as Assur in *Semiramide*, followed by *Moïse et Pharaon*, *Maometto II*, *Guillaume Tell*, *Il viaggio a Reims*, *Le siège de Corinthe*, *Torvaldo e Dorliska*, *La gazza ladra* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia*. For his achievements at ROF, he was awarded the "Rossini d'oro" Prize.

His discography includes, among others, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, *Stabat Mater*, *Cantata per Pio IX* and *La Cenerentola* conducted by Riccardo Chailly (Decca), *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan tutte* conducted by Georg Solti (Decca), *Le nozze di Figaro* under Zubin Mehta's baton (Sony), *Semiramide* and *Maometto II* (Ricordi), *Don Giovanni* conducted by Daniel Barenboim (Erato), *La damnation de Faust and Falstaff* conducted by Colin Davis (LSO live).

LATEST PERFORMANCES: Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* at La Scala Milan with M° Chailly; *Petite Messe Solennelle* at Opera di Roma; *Nabucco* at Festival Verdi Parma; *Nabucco* and *Turandot* at Arena di Verona; *Turandot* at Puccini Festival in Torre del Lago; *Les Vêpres siciliennes* in concert at Aix-en-Provence Festival; *Nabucco* with Riccardo Chailly and *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Teatro alla Scala *Norma* at Teatro Lirico di Cagliari; *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Opéra du Capitole de Toulouse; *Nabucco* at Teatro San Carlo di Napoli; *La forza del destino* in Zurich; *Simon Boccanegra* with Riccardo Muti in Tokyo; *Norma* at Teatro alla Scala; *Attila* at Teatro La Fenice; Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* at Maggio Musicale Fiorentino with Zubin Mehta and with the Staatskapelle Dresden conducted by Daniele Gatti; *Simon Boccanegra* at Opera di Roma.

FORTHCOMING PROJECTS: *Luisa Miller* at Teatro San Carlo di Napoli; *Don Carlos* in Cagliari; *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Opera di Roma; *Faust* in Las Palmas; *Maria Stuarda* at Théâtre des Champs Elysées Paris; *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at Teatro San Carlo; *Don Carlo* in Toulouse; *Nabucco* in Bilbao; *Attila* in Piacenza, Modena and Reggio Emilia; *Così fan tutte* at Opernhaus Zurich; *Turandot* at Metropolitan New York; *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* at Teatro Real de Madrid.

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