



Tobias Cole Counter Tenor

Dido and Aeneas, Sydney Philharmonia

"My personal great solo joy of the performance, though, came from countertenor Tobias Cole's stupendous Sorcerer, whose utterances were wondrously malevolent, spine-tinglingly other-worldly and delivered with such obvious rejoicing in his character that he was a gripping centrepiece of the action..."

Opera-Opera November 2007

Semele

"Cole's aria, *Your tuneful voice my tale would tell*, is meticulously impressive... sung with magnificent clarity and expressiveness."

Opera-Opera June 2004

Messiah

"Cole's opening statement was simple and straight-forward; attention-grabbing for the consistent beauty of his sound, his impeccable diction and the obvious sincerity of his music-making... a performance that will linger long in memory... producing sound which is ravishingly pure and powerful."

Opera-Opera December 2002

Tobias Cole is one of Australia's most successful counter-tenors, having performed throughout Australia, as well as in the United Kingdom and the United States.

In 2004, he made his U.S. debut with the Chicago Opera Theatre playing Ottone in their highly praised production of *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, returning to sing Apollo in *Death in Venice* and again in 2005 to perform Oberon in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other engagements that year included John Adams' *El Nino*, Orff's *Carmina Burana* and various Bach cantatas (recorded by ABC) all for Sydney Philharmonia, as well as covering the title role in *Rinaldo* and the Voice of Apollo in *Death in Venice* for Opera Australia.

In addition to performing with Opera Australia, Tobias has sung with West Australian Opera (*Orlando*), Opera Queensland (*Giulio Cesare*), The Renaissance Players, The Song Company, Kent Opera (*Masque of Dioclesian*), The Australian Ballet (Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*), at the London Handel Festival (*Deidamia* with director Keith Warner) and the English Bach Festival (*The Fairy Queen*).

In both Australia and the United Kingdom he has sung many of the great Baroque oratorios including Handel's *Messiah* with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs at the Sydney Opera House on several occasions, to great public and critical acclaim.

Tobias was the recipient of a Churchill Fellowship in 1993 which enabled him to study with Ashley Stafford at the Royal College of Music in London. In 2002 he won the Metropolitan Opera Young Artist Study Award, consequently spending three months studying in New York at The Met. Later the same year, he performed the role of Athamas in Pinchgut Opera's *Semele* at City Recital Hall, Angel Place (Sydney), and a live CD recording of this production is available on the ABC Classics label.

Recent engagements have included *Flight* at the Adelaide Festival, Opera Australia's Mozart Anniversary Concerts, the title role in *Julius Caesar* for Opera Australia in both Sydney and Melbourne, *Messiah* for The Queensland Orchestra and Sydney Philharmonia, *Dido and Aeneas* for Sydney Philharmonia, appearances in The Melbourne Festival and *St. John Passion* for The Queensland Orchestra.

Last year he appeared in *This Show is About People* for Sydney Festival, a Handel Gala for Sydney Philharmonia, *Force of Genius* for Salut Baroque and *Menage* concerts for Musica Viva, as well as the role of Medoro in *Orlando* with Opera Australia in both Sydney and Melbourne seasons.

In 2009, Tobias will perform the title role in *Xerxes* and appear in Orff's *Carmina Burana* for Victorian Opera as well as appearing with Sydney Philharmonia Choirs' Vox ensemble, the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and Salut Baroque.

Tobias Cole's Manager Worldwide is Graham Pushee: graham@artsmanagement.com.au
assisted by Sarah Holloway: sarah@artsmanagement.com.au

May 2009

Not to be altered or reprinted without permission – this biography is for website use only

Telephone (+61 2) 9211 9422 Facsimile (+61 2) 9211 9466