

Sébastien Fournier

COUNTERTENOR



A precocious artist, he studied at the Lyon Conservatory and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. At 22, several surgeries abruptly ended his career and led to a significant period of aphasia. His determination to return to the stage led him on a long road to vocal reconstruction, studying and experimenting with numerous classical and alternative methods, which, against all odds, allowed him to gradually rediscover a pure and powerful new voice.

"Clear, crystalline, almost mysterious, Sébastien Fournier's voice rises and immediately surprises the ear, instinctively awakening emotion." – E. Marshall, Life

At the age of 32, he resumed singing with leading ensembles such as Les Arts Florissants, Les Musiciens du Louvre, and Accentus, first as a chorister, and then, having fully recovered his voice, as a soloist with Opéra Fuoco and the programs of the Sprezzatura ensemble, which he founded in 2004. He has participated in numerous festivals in France and abroad, including the Czech Republic, China, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, and Ghana. www.sprezzatura.fr

The ensemble represented France at the World's Fair and performed regularly in China (Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Dalian, etc.), notably Macau, where it created the first sacred art festival with the Alliance Française and the Ricci Institute. With Sprezzatura, it sought to highlight the possible dialogues between all the arts in unconventional settings. Thus, it collaborated with renowned choreographers such as Jean Gaudin and Paco Decina, and visual artists like Mauro Corda, Patrick de Wilde, and Pierre-Yves Trémois.

These encounters profoundly influenced his singing and interpretation, leading him to now focus his work on the quality of movement and the purity of the vocal line.

He recorded 3 CDs, Henry Purcell (Hybrid Music), Vivaldi / Pergolèse (Harmonia Mundi) and the role of Athamas in Handel's Semele (Pierre Véron).

His preferred repertoire ranges from the monodies of Pérotin the Great, Hildegard von Bingen, Llibre Vermell de Montserrat to the operas of Handel, Vivaldi, Britten... not forgetting contemporary creations.

In the theatre, he has just played the role of the imaginary castrato "Vivaldino", in the play "Folie Baroque" at the Funambule in Paris and is preparing a new stand-up show on the diversity of voices and characters throughout history.

Currently, he is producing two shows, one focusing on Baroque masters and the other on the dialogue between cultures. With Sprezzatura, he is preparing a CD of medieval pilgrimage songs. Finally, he plans to record a CD of 20th-century French melodies with Thierry Escaich.

From 2016 to 2018, he was the musical director of the Macau Festival of Sacred Arts (People's Republic of China), and from 2012 to 2019, the musical director of the Zdar Festival. Nad Sazavou (Czech Republic) and for the 2022-2023 season, musical director of the Mosaïques Festival in Ervy le Châtel.