



James Bowman joins Orchestra Europa Advisory Council

We are delighted to announce that James Bowman, CBE, countertenor of international acclaim, has agreed to join Orchestra Europa's Advisory Council following the orchestra's recent successful performance at the Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall.

'Last Thursday's concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall was, for me, quite electrifying. The overture to 'The Bartered Bride' took off like a rocket, and the orchestra never looked back. It was the first time Scott had conducted Tchaikovsky's 1st Piano Concerto and it came across with an exciting freshness - nothing hackneyed about this performance. These young players responded brilliantly to Scott's youthful, energetic direction.' James Bowman

Chaired by Lord Palumbo, former head of the Arts Council, the council brings together leading figures from the worlds of art and education to help to steer this revolutionary organisation through its development. Born in 1941, James Bowman is one of the foremost countertenors of our age having performed across the globe in every major opera house working with some of the greatest musical figures of the twentieth century. A student at Oxford University, Bowman made his professional début at Aldeburgh in the role of Oberon in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a role originally designed for Alfred Deller but which has become associated with Bowman from this 1967 performance. Following this Bowman has been in continued demand across the world, and himself performed at the opening concert of the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Although working predominantly in the early music field, including becoming a noted Handelian, Bowman has also performed a number of premières, including music by Britten, Geoffrey Burgon, Ridout, and Richard Rodney Bennett. Bowman has also enjoyed an extremely successful recording career, with discs spanning the entire alto repertoire. He has played a major role in the acceptance of the countertenor voice in modern Baroque performance, in no small part thanks to the unique and dramatic qualities of his voice. He was admitted to the French *Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* in 1992 and in 1997 Her Majesty the Queen created him a CBE for services to music.

James Bowman performed alongside Orchestra Europa at its first ever concert in Oxford in January 2008 making his membership of the Advisory Council all the more fitting. Other recent members include Lady Valerie Solti and Sir David Tang.

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