

# Jean-François Novelli, Tenor



French tenor Jean-François Novelli, laureate of the Concours Général, holds a degree in musicology from the Sorbonne, a Premier Prix in recorder, and is a graduate of the CNSMD de Paris in voice. A young talent recognized by ADAMI, he naturally turned—thanks to his first instrument—towards early music, which he has practiced and continues to explore with great passion. This is reflected in some thirty recordings and DVDs alongside today’s leading conductors in early music. Notable among them: *Silentium*, a recital album centered on the voix de taille recorded with Fabien Armengaud, and *Tirannique Empire*, a recital of cantatas by Jean-Baptiste Stuck with the ensemble Les Lunaisiens “première époque.”

His recent opera engagements include the roles of Remendado (*Carmen*) and the Chaplain (*Dialogues des Carmélites*) at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice, Torquemada (*L’Heure espagnole*) on an Italian tour (Operas of Brescia, Como, Cremona, and Pavia), the Herald (*Dante* by Godard) at the Opéra de Saint-Étienne, Jean-Paul and Monsieur Victor (*Ô Mon bel Inconnu* by Reynaldo Hahn) at the Théâtre de l’Athénée, and Telemaco and Pisandro (*Il ritorno d’Ulisse in patria*), a project that has toured the world for ten years: Europe (Opéra Massimo in Palermo, Théâtre Royal de Versailles, Spain), Asia (Korea, Hong Kong), United States (New York).

His love of the stage led him to study clowning with Françoise Simon and Raphaël Almosni, and theatre with Olivier Broche and Emeline Bayard. He joyfully applies this training in his own projects developed within the company *Compagnie de l’Autre Voix*, which he founded:

*Croustilleux la Fontaine*, a theatrical recital of songs based on Jean de La Fontaine’s licentious tales, set to music by Antoine Sahler and staged by Juliette, still touring and performed over 80 times. An album of songs from the show was released in 2022.

*Ma vie de ténor (est un roman qui m’intéresse beaucoup)*, based on a text by Hector Berlioz about the singer’s ego, staged by Olivier Broche, performed at the Théâtre de la Porte Saint-Michel as part of the Avignon Off Festival in July 2023.

He also creates “pocket-sized” formats blending poetry and music: *Divine bouteille*, a recital about wine—a theme deeply present in baroque music—with lute, and *La Boîte à Joujoux*, a reimagined fantasy with piano based on the tale by Hellé and the eponymous work by Claude Debussy.

He recently released a recital album of French mélodies, *Vous souvenez-vous ?*, a tribute to the early rediscoverers of early music at the dawn of the 20th century and beyond, with Maude Gratton on piano.

Notable engagements for the 2025–2026 season include *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme* at the Opéra Royal de Versailles, and the role of Raphaël (*La Route Fleurie* by Lopez) at the Théâtre de l’Odéon in Marseille.

He has been represented by RSB Artists agency since 2013.

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