

Fernando Escalona, Counter-tenor



First countertenor to join the Académie de l'Opéra National de Paris, Fernando Escalona made his debut in 2020 on the Palais Garnier stage in the role of the second aunt in *Yvonne, Princesse de Bourgogne* by Philippe Boesmans, and was awarded the Prix lyrique de l'AROP (Association pour le Rayonnement de l'Opéra de Paris) in March 2022.

During this 2023-2024 season, he embodies the roles of Achille (Sartorio's *L'Orfeo*) conducted by Philippe Jarrousky, Licida (Vivaldi's *L'Olimpiade*) at the Opéra de Nice conducted by Jean-Christophe Spinosi, the Wolf (Vasco Mendonça's *La petite fille, le loup et le chasseur*) at the Amphithéâtre Bastille, and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with the Ensemble Matheus.

We also heard him in the roles of Nerone (*L'Incoronazione di Poppea*) at the Opéra de Dijon and at the Théâtre de l'Athénée in Paris with the Poème Harmonique conducted by Vincent Dumestre in the role of the dead girl (*Il Trionfo della Morte* de Aliotti) with the Traversées Baroques, Licida (Vivaldi's *L'Olimpiade*) with the Ensemble Matheus directed by Jean-Christophe Spinosi, at the «Voix d'Automne» Festival in Evian-les-bains with Leonardo García Alarcón, at the Radio-France Montpellier Occitanie Festival with the ensemble Il Caravaggio of Camille Delaforge, at the Chaise-Dieu Festival with Les Accents conducted by Thibault Noally (Oloferne in *La Giuditta*), in a Spanish music program with Vincent Dumestre's Poème Harmonique, or in the Festival Idéal au Potager du Roi with the pianist Olga Dubynska.

Fernando Escalona began his vocal training in Venezuela with Margot Parès-Reyna at El Sistema, then with Isabel Palacios at the Camerata Barroca in Caracas. He also attended master classes with Mirella Freni, Katia Ricciarelli, Laura Claycomb, Markus Marquardt, Michael Pinkerton, Gerald Wirth and Chantal Mathias.

Soloist in Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* with the Simón Bolívar Orchestra (conducted by César Ivan-Lara), then in Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the Caracas Youth Orchestra (conducted by Christian Vásquez). In 2016 he joined the Centre de musique baroque de Versailles under the tutelage of Olivier Schneebelli and took part in numerous ensemble productions such as Salieri's *Les Horaces* conducted by Christophe Rousset and Rameau's *Les Fêtes d'Hébé*, in collaboration with the Académie de l'Opéra national de Paris and the Royal College of Music in London and under the direction of Jonathan Williams.

He was a finalist of the 2018 edition of the Marmande International Singing Competition.

In addition to his solo career, he continues to work as an assistant singing teacher with the Simón Bolívar National Choir of Venezuela, of which he is a founding member and with which he has toured internationally with conductors such as Helmuth Rilling, Johan de Meij, Sir Simon Rattle, Claudio Abbado and Gustavo Dudamel.

Fernando Escalona has been represented by RSB Artists since 2020.

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Contacts

RSB Artists

Artists management / Agence artistique

Réda SIDI-BOUMEDINE / Director and Artists manager / rsb@rsbartists.com / +33 6 747 617 97

Victoire LE BRAS / Production manager and Artists manager / vlb@rsbartists.com / +33 6 30 79 60 88

Nicolas JOUVE / Artistic delegate / nj@rsbartists.com / +33 6 84 84 12 45

www.rsbartists.com