ARYEH NUSSBAUM COHEN

Countertenor

Countertenor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen brings his “ravishing…otherworldly” (Opera News) instrument to a broad range of repertoire spanning the Baroque to the contemporary. Acclaimed as both a “young star” and “complete artist” by the New York Times and as “extravagantly gifted... poised to redefine what’s possible for singers of this distinctive voice type” by the San Francisco Chronicle, Mr. Nussbaum Cohen’s passion for creating performances of great vocal beauty and dramatic intensity have earned him a reputation as “a redefining force in the countertenor field” (Limelight).

Mr. Nussbaum Cohen finds a close affinity between the ancient musical traditions of his Jewish heritage and the Baroque works composing much of his operatic repertoire. Equally content performing new works, Nussbaum Cohen’s first commercial recording project – the world premiere of Kenneth Fuchs’ *Poems of Life* performed with the London Symphony Orchestra under JoAnn Falletta – was honored with a GRAMMY® Award for Best Classical Compendium in 2019; and his interpretation of the Refugee’s aria from Jonathan Dove’s *Flight* provided the centerpiece for his extensive catalogue of competition successes, including winning the Grand Prize at the 2017 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, taking top prize in Houston Grand Opera’s Eleanor McCollum and the Dallas Opera Guild Competitions, and winning a George and Nora London Foundation Award. He counts among his career highlights his recent Metropolitan Opera debut as Rosencrantz in the U.S. premiere of Brett Dean’s *Hamlet*, and he looks forward to the upcoming world premiere of Mikael Karlsson’s *Fanny and Alexander* at La Monnaie de Munt.

In the 2023-24 season, Nussbaum Cohen returns to Glyndebourne to perform the title role in Sir David McVicar’s acclaimed production of Handel’s *Giulio Cesare in Egitto*, led by Maestro Laurence Cummings. He will sing the role of Sesto in the same opera for his debut at Teatro dell’Opera di Roma under the baton of Rinaldo Alessandrini, followed by his debut at Deutsche Oper Berlin in the company premiere of Sir George Benjamin’s *Written on Skin* as First Angel/The Boy in Katie Mitchell’s original production.

His robust concert schedule includes a worldwide tour of Handel’s *Rodelinda* with The English Concert conducted by Harry Bicket, including debuts at Carnegie Hall, L.A. Opera, Cal Performances, and in South Korea and China; *Carmina Burana* with Hans Graf and the Indianapolis Symphony, “I Tre Controtenori” at the Teatro dell’Opera di Roma, Bach’s Magnificat with Cantata Collective and Nicholas McGegan, and works by Bach with American Bach Soloists under Jeffrey Thomas and with Jeannette Sorrell and Apollo’s Fire.

His growing discography includes a solo program of Gluck, Handel, and Vivaldi with Jeffrey Thomas and the American Bach Soloists (2019), and the 2023 release of Bach’s St. John Passion with the Cantata Collective, about which Early Music America wrote, “Countertenor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen…triumphs in the alto arias, with a voice of arresting beauty, singing with the utmost expressiveness and artistry.” Lending his countertenor voice to the Romantic repertoire, Nussbaum Cohen performs the music of Clara and Robert Schumann, Korngold, and Brahms on an album set for release in 2025 on AVIE Records.

Nussbaum Cohen recently made his debut at Glyndebourne, sounding “astonishingly beautiful as Athamas” (The Guardian) in Handel’s *Semele*. Other recent roles include David (Handel’s *Saul*), Endimione (Cavalli’s *La Calisto*), Oberon (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*), Medoro (Handel’s *Orlando*), Ottone (Handel’s *Agrippina*), and Prince Go-Go (Ligeti’s *Le Grand Macabre*). In recent seasons, he has debuted at the Bayerische Staatsoper, Opernhaus Zürich, the Adelaide Festival (AUS), Komische Oper Berlin, the San Francisco Opera, Ballet, and Symphony, Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Houston Grand Opera, Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra at the Concertgebouw, Music of the Baroque, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra; and has enjoyed collaborations with conductors Nicholas McGegan, Patrick Summers, Masaaki Suzuki, James Gaffigan, Dame Jane Glover, Nicholas Carter, Richard Egarr, David Bates, and Christopher Moulds.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in history from Princeton University, along with academic certificates in vocal performance and Judaic studies, Nussbaum Cohen went on to become the first countertenor in the history of the Houston Grand Opera Studio. He is also a graduate of San Francisco Opera’s Merola and Adler Fellowship Programs and the Wolf Trap Opera Studio. His extensive accolades have included receiving the William Matheus Sullivan Musical Foundation Award, a Sara Tucker Study Grant, and a Richard Tucker Career Grant.

In recent years, Nussbaum Cohen has given masterclasses at the University of Michigan, Buffalo Philharmonic, and his alma mater, Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of the Arts. He currently resides in Northern California with his wife Abbi, where he serves as Western Region Soloist Representative on the board of the American Guild of Musical Artists.