

JAMES M. BROWN

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COUNTERTENOR [THEY/THEM]

James M. Brown [they/them] is a Mainer and artist known for diverse repertoire. In possession of a "mellifluous voice". They've been regarded by the Portland Press Herald as "a countertenor with a pleasingly warm, powerful tone." Most recently James has been seen as Bradamante in Immersion Repertory Theatre's workshop of *Alcina: Reimagined*, which won the support of Opera San Diego's Opera Hack 3.0 initiative. Operawire has said, "Their voice quality is vibrant and expressive and sometimes otherworldly in its delicate beauty."

A frequent collaborator of new music, they have premiered several new works such as: Danni Song's *you dreamed of a non-orange tomorrow* for the Institute of Contemporary Performance Practice and Nisan Ak's *Singing Bindings* (in collaboration with the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History). Most recently they performed with the RVA Baroque Ensemble where "...their experience in opera was parlayed into a period-stylishly affective portrayal of King Louis XIV..." in the premiere of Niccolò Seligmann's *Julie, Monster*. This coming season, Mx. Brown will be seen as the mother Danae in the revival of Bononcini's *Medusa* and the fate Clothos in Crean's *The Harbingers*.

Dedicated to regenerative projects and recital curation, James has recently collaborated with fellow artists to produce *A Ghost's Endeavor: a Queer Recital* to benefit True Colors United. "The countertenor showed their ability to collaborate effectively, and their performance with colleagues was a strong showing of vocal excellence, technical skill, and emotive interpretation" (Operawire). Following the success of their previous work, they will be workshopping their next chamber project, *Forgotten In the Books*, as the Recital Resident in City Lyric Opera's 2024-25 season, centering feminist ideals and compositions.

Repertoire highlights include a "menacingly cold" Sorceress in *Dido & Aeneas* (L'Opéra), a "flamboyantly carefree" Mercutio in *Romeo & Juliet* (Shakespeareances) and an "irresistible" Old Lady in *Candide* (Le Devoir). James was a soloist with Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Schulich School of Music as well as a staged presentation of Britten's art songs in collaboration with the Montreal Rose Festival.

Mx. Brown holds degrees in Performance & Opera Studies (MMus) from McGill University and in Voice Performance (BMus) University of Southern Maine and have been recognized with multiple awards from the Bay Chamber Concert Series, Rossini Club, and USM Chamber Music Competition.