

## Giuseppe Distefano, tenor

He started very young playing the violin at the Music Institute “Vincenzo Bellini” in Catania and then at the “Francesco Cilea” Conservatory in Reggio Calabria, where he discovered the passion for singing and where he studied under the guidance of the soprano Serenella Fraschini.

As a member of the “F. Cilea” chorus he took part in different opera productions for the theatres of Reggio Calabria, Messina, Taormina, Cosenza, Catanzaro, facing roles in quality of second lead singer: Brulmann in Werther, Venditore di Prugne and Parpignol in La Bohème, Venditore di Canzonette and l'Amante in Tabarro, Principe di Persia in Turandot, Borsa in Rigoletto.

Thanks to his great attitude towards music he won the first prizes of national and international singing competitions: Concorso di Esecuzione Musicale “Città di Palmi” (2<sup>nd</sup> prize in 2008), Premio Borsa di Studio “Pasquale Benintende” (3<sup>rd</sup> prize in 2008), Premio Lirico “R. Leoncavallo” (Special Mention “Voci Leoncavalliane” in 2009), Concorso di Interpretazione Musicale “Città di Reggio Calabria” (2<sup>nd</sup> prize in 2009), Concorso di Canto Lirico “Città di San Gemini” (3<sup>rd</sup> prize), Concorso “Città di Palmi” (1<sup>st</sup> prize in 2010), Special Mention “Galliano Masini” at Teatro Goldoni in Livorno (in 2011), Concorso Illica (3<sup>rd</sup> prize in 2012).

**In 2012 he won the 66<sup>th</sup> edition of the “European Community” Competition for Young Opera Singers organized by Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto “A. Belli” and he obtained the “Cesare Valletti” Special Prize.**

From 2008 to 2011 he performed numerous concerts organised on the occasion of international conventions and for musical and humanitarian associations (concerts for “Circuito del Mito” in Sicily and concerts for 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Italian Union in Livorno, Reggio Calabria and Messina).

In 2011 he was awarded a scholarship within the project “I Sing Beijing” of the Hanyu Academy of Vocal Arts and he attended master classes held by famous teachers (Hao Jiang Tian, baritone; Jiang QiHu, tenor, Katherine Chu, orchestra conductor; Gareth Morrell, orchestra conductor; Peter Meclintock, director; Lenore Rosenberg, Associate Artistic Administrator of the Metropolitan Opera). He also performed concerts at the National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing.

In 2011 he was selected for a master at “Cantiere Lirico di Livorno” at Livorno’s “Goldoni Opera Theater”, where he attended the following master classes: Giovanna Casolla and Marcello Lippi (vocal interpretation), Jonathan Webb (musical interpretation), Lindsay Kemp, Alessio Pizzech and Francesco Torrigiani (acting and stage movements), Alberto Paloscia (operatic repertoire)..

In April 2012 he performed in the United States of America “Nessun dorma” (from “Turandot” by Puccini) at the presence of Hillary Clinton.

He studied the roles of Rodolfo (“La Bohème” by Puccini) and Nemorino (“L’elisir d’amore” by Donizetti) and he performed recitals and concerts in collaboration with the association “Gli Amici di Enrico Caruso” in Naples and with the Music Conservatory of Reggio Calabria.

He has attended master classes held by the tenor Nicola Martinucci.

**Last year he attended in Spoleto classes with Ines Salazar, Renato Bruson, Marco Boemi, Enza Ferrari and in 2012 he made his debut facing the role of Alfredo in “La Traviata” by G. Verdi within the Spoleto Opera Season organized by Teatro Lirico Sperimentale di Spoleto “A. Belli”.**