

Jingma Fan - Tenor

China-born tenor Jingma Fan was described as "a tenor who has a voice as charming as those of Pavarotti and the legendary Gigli" in a BBC publication after he won the Third Cardiff Singer of the World Competition.

Fan made his operatic debut as Rinuccio in *Gianna Schicci* at the Central Opera House in Beijing in 1987 where he also sang the title role in *Faust* with the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. He has since performed all over the world in Europe, North America, Asia, Russia and South Africa in opera and concert, where he delighted audiences with his beautiful voice and truthful and vivid characterizations. He sings in Italian, French, English, German and Russian. Opera Now called his portrayal of Goro in French director Frédéric Mitterrand's 1995 film of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* "worthy of an Oscar nomination."

Although Fan has a special affinity for Italian opera, his wide repertoire includes a variety of roles, from the dramatic to the comic, such as leading roles in *Faust* and *Don Carlos*, Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, St. Louis in *L'Oracolo*, Ramiro in *La Cenerentola*, Lensky in *Eugene Onegin*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Don Jose in *Carmen*, Evangelist in *I Am the Way*, and David, Kunz Vogelgesang in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*.

Fan is also an accomplished recitalist and his Italian folk song CD, recently re-released, received warm acclaim. His concert repertoire includes lieder and oratorio of notably Mozart and Verdi Requiems, Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, Handel's *Messiah*, *The Creation* by Haydn, Schubert's *Mass in G*, and *Perséphone* by Stravinsky.

Recently the tenor has returned to China for a series of recitals and television appearances. He is a pioneer in the new domain of modern Chinese opera, starring in three contemporary operas, a grand opera, and a musical epic, all in Chinese, in the past few years. He performed Wenjing Guo's *The Night Banquet* at the Lincoln Center Festival in the summer of 2002 and then in Berlin, Brussels, Amsterdam and Perth. He also sang in *Wolf Cub Village* by Wenjing Guo, *The Memories of Taiping Lake* by Shuya Xu, the role of Emperor Xuan Zong in *Concubine Yang Gui Fei* by Jin Xiang, and Zheng He in the world premiere of *Zheng He—Admiral of the Seven Seas* by Law Wai Lun.

Fan began his musical studies at the Sichuan Conservatory of Music in Chengdu, China and continued at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. In 1984, he became a national celebrity overnight after winning China's First Televised National Vocal Competition. He later went to Italy, where he refined his Bel canto technique under the guidance of Carlo Bergonzi and then furthered his studies at the Juilliard School of Music in New York. He also studied with Franco Corelli.

The versatile China-born tenor won a few international competitions, such as the Third Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, a silver medal at the Second Rosa Ponselle International Vocal Competition, the first prize of the Opera Index Vocal Competition in New York, and a finalist in Luciano Pavarotti International Vocal Competition 1995.