

William Shelton (Countertenor)

William Shelton was born in Nancy (France). His parents who were both members of the Nancy Opera chorus encouraged him to develop his musical potential and he won a scholarship to Salisbury Cathedral School (England) at the age of eight. He continued his musical studies at Dole, Besançon and Dijon conservatories, where he studied singing, horn, organ, music theory, chamber music and orchestra. He moved to Paris in 2015 after obtaining a Bachelors degree in Physics and Chemistry at Besançon university, a Horn diploma, an organ diploma and a singing diploma with the highest distinctions. He has had the opportunity to develop his singing by participating in masterclasses with Hans Jörg Mammel, Jan Kobow, Michel Laplénie, Isabelle Druet, Robert Expert, Regina Werner, Mickaël Mardayer and by entering the Philippe Jaroussky Academy in 2017. In 2018 he won the Young Artist Award at the Pietro Antonio Cesti baroque opera competition in Innsbruck, he was awarded the 2nd prize at the Froville international baroque singing competition and he was admitted into the Opera Fuoco Opera Company for young artists conducted by David Stern.

William Shelton takes part in projects of many renowned vocal ensembles : Les Cris de Paris, Pygmalion, Les Arts Florissants, La Compagnie la Tempête, Scherzi Musicali, La Fenice, Collegium Vocale Gent and Vox Luminis. His Bach Cantatas debut with Raphaël Pichon at the Paris Philharmonie was broadcast live on french television and was followed by a tour to Israël for the Eilat chamber music festival. He was subsequently engaged by William Christie in the Bach B minor Mass as Alto soloist for the Arts Florissants Spring Festival in Vendée. He also started his international career by singing Elena Langer's *Landscape with three people* at the Heidelberger Frühling Festival and the Podium Esslingen. He sang the role of Messagiera in Caccini's *Euridice* with Nicolas Achten's Scherzi Musicali and toured in France (Festival de musique ancienne de Lanvellec), Belgium (Brussels) and Romania (Festivalul de muzica veche Timisoara). In the first months of 2019 he took part in a new creation « Heptaméron, récits de la chambre obscure » by the director Benjamin Lazar and the conductor Geoffroy Jourdain and performed all around France singing and also playing the french horn. This summer he will sing the title role of Saint Edmund in a new creation « Legend of Saint Edmund » by Anne Marie David and Jean Musy. In 2020, William will sing alto solo in the Matthewpassion conducted by Philippe Herreweghe and will tour in many venues all around Europe (Scala Milano, Théâtre des Champs Élysées, Elbphilharmonie...).