



*"Behind every successful tenor is
... a story.*

Pavarotti was a larger than life character who understood how to popularize sometimes difficult music. Bocelli overcame his blindness to become a superstar and has managed to bridge the divide between popular and classical music. Friar Alessandro fits very well into this tradition."

*From "The Singing Friar"
British TV Documentary*

FRIAR ALESSANDRO

A Story

Friar Alessandro Brustenghi, OFM is a 36 year old Italian tenor who is also a genuine Franciscan friar and lives at the Portiuncula, the original spiritual home of St. Francis of Assisi. He recorded his debut album with Decca Records in 2012, "Voice from Assisi." During his first year as an international artist, the album topped the UK Classical Charts for a number of weeks and sold in excess of the units required to make a gold disc in Italy. The album was subsequently nominated for the Classic Album of the Year in the Classic Brits. His latest CD, "Voice of Joy," is a Christmas album recorded in London and Bethlehem which is quickly gaining worldwide attention.

Being a genuine Franciscan friar who has a vow of poverty, Friar Alessandro does not personally benefit from or receive any monetary rewards for his singing. The CD royalties are directed for the charitable works of the Franciscan Order, which in practice, means the missions of the Order. Donations arising from the many concerts he has performed are usually directed to the charity which has organized the event. The nature of the music business and his contract with a major record company has meant that this normally shy friar has a website and social media network which can be accessed at www.friaralessandro.com where a number of his videos and musical performances can be viewed on this official site.

Since rising to prominence on the classical music stage, he has performed at notable events in Europe (*see events on reverse side including Television and Intercontinental Experiences ...*)



The Portiuncula
Chapel of St. Francis, Assisi, Italy

4th October 2013 - Sings for Pope Francis on the occasion of his visit to Assisi.

27th October 2013 - Television broadcast of his performance at the Royal Albert Hall London, in front of an audience of 5,000 people in "The Big Sing."

25th November 2013 - hosts Decca Records' first annual Christmas Carol concert with a variety of guests including Katherine Jenkins, soprano, and Catherine Tate, comedian, to raise funds for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London.

20th December 2013 - Sings for Pope Francis' official birthday concert at Saint Mary of the Angels in Rome, televised by Italian national channel.

20th February 2014 - Performs concert under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Hungary, represented by his wife at the event, at St. Stephen's Basilica in Budapest attended by an estimated 5,000 people.

25th February 2014 - Performs concert at Lisinski, Croatia's most prestigious concert hall, to capacity audience.

17th-22nd March 2014 - Performs concert for St. Patrick's Feast Day in Dublin, Ireland, and follows up with concerts to capacity crowds in Galway Cathedral and St. Francis' Church, Cork. Subsequently, in July 2014, he performed in the North of Ireland at Christ Church in Derry.

Friar Alessandro has given many concerts in prestigious theaters and cathedrals in Italy and has made regular appearances on television as an established star.



On Television

Friar Alessandro has also sung on various prestigious television programs in many European countries: on the BBC Morning Breakfast Show and the Alan Titchmarsh Show in England, Vivement Dimanche in France, Licht ins Dunkel in Austria, as well as various television interviews and songs for the recent mini-tour of Europe in Hungary, Croatia and Ireland – where he made an immediate impact on the country's most popular Saturday Night Show (15th March 2014) – are worthy of note.



Intercontinental Experience

Friar Alessandro visited America in 2013, limiting his appearances to simply singing in churches and schools. These events did bring local TV and press coverage in San Francisco, Ohio and Washington, D.C. Friar Alessandro performed a concert at Oakland Cathedral of Christ the Light for some 2,000 people (approximately 1,500 of whom were children) in conjunction with a project entitled, "St. Francis in the Schools," aimed at giving a cultural day out for underprivileged children. His first concert in San Francisco was marked by a presentation by the City Council declaring 1st November 2013 as *Friar Alessandro Day*. Other concerts were given at St. Paul the Apostle Church in New York, where he had originally been requested to perform for the CBS Show "Christmas in New York," and the Franciscan Monastery in Washington, D.C. On the latter occasion, he also gave a private concert for students of music at Sidwell Friends School.

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