



# **INTRODUCTION**

"Omo Bello is currently Nigeria's only international opera singer, by virtue of her acclaimed performances in prestigious opera houses, theatres, as well as concert halls in over 20 countries across Europe, and the world..."

## THE ARTISTE – BEGINNINGS

After studying Cell Biology and Genetics at the University of Lagos, Omo Bello devoted herself to music; studying at the Conservatoire de Paris – CNSMDP. She holds a diploma in singing performance from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London (ABRSM).

In 2010, Omo Bello won the 1st prize in the coveted Luciano Pavarotti Giovani Competition and was dubbed a "talent of Gold" by the Italian press. The following year, she emerged the winner of the Anselmo Colzani international singing competition. In 2013, the Soprano was awarded with Italy's prestigious international Arca d'Oro prize and was nominated in 2014 for the Victoires de la Musique Classique (the French Grammy Awards) in the "Lyrical Revelation of the Year" category.

# THE ARTISTE – RECITAL/CONCERT/TOUR

2023/24	•Recital of French mélodies at the Villa Viardot, France
	•Recital of French mélodies at the CAOS museum, Italy
2022/23	•Solo recital at the Wigmore Hall, London
	•Teatro Pallladium, Rome. Paris Mozart Orchestra. Claire Gibault. Ariana in Ariana e il Minotauro by
2021/22	Silvia Colasanti.
	•Kiasma Hall, Montpellier. Orchestre de chmbre du Languedoc. Pascale Jeandroz. Solo Recital.
	•Recital at the 'Eclats de Voix' Festival
2020/21	- Recliai di lile Eciais de voix restival
2019/20	•Tour with the Paris Mozart Orchestra. Claire Gibault. Ariane in Ariane et le Minotaure by Silvia
	Colsanti.
	•Luxembourg Gardens. La Marseillaise. Orchestre de la Garde Républicaine. In the presence of
2018/19	President Emmanuel Macron.  • Festival des Forêts. Beethoven Recital . Trio Chausson.
2017/18	•Town Hall Symphony Hall Birmingham. French melodies recital with the pianist Jeff Cohen.

# THE ARTISTE - RECITAL/CONCERT/TOUR

- 2016/17 •Philharmonie de Paris. Recital of French mélodies. Orchestre National d'Île de France.
  - •Soloist in *Symphony no.* 9 by Beethoven. Orchestre National des Pays de la Loire. Pascal Rophé.
- 2015/16 •Barbican Centre, London Recital of French mélodies. Sound Unbound Festival.
  - \*Soloist in The Creation by Haydn. Orchestre du Palais Royal, Jean Philippe Sarcos
- Philharmonia Hall, Saint Petersburg Saint Petersburg Symphony orchestra. Lin Daye
  - Opernhaus Bonn Opera gala for Deutsche AIDS-Stiftung. Beethoven Orchester Bonn.
  - Philharmonie de Paris Bachianas Brasileiras by Villa-Lobos. Orchestre de Paris. Alondra de la Parra.
  - ECHO (European Concert hall organization) Rising Stars European recital tour (Barbican Centre -London, Musikverein Vienna, Concertgebouw Amsterdam, BOZAR Brussels, etc)
  - Théâtre des Champs Elysées, Télaïre. Castor et Pollux. Rameau. Hervé Niquet. Christian Schiaretti.
  - Festival de Radio France et Montpellier. La Princesse Elsbeth. Fantasio. Offenbach. Friedemann Layer.
  - •Philharmonie de Paris, The Royal Festival Hall, Londres. La Pastourelle, La Chouette et Le Chauve Souris. L'Enfant et les sortilèges. Ravel. Esa Pekka-Salonen.

# THE ARTISTE - OPERA/CONCERT/TOUR

- 2013/14
- •Opéra de Montpellier (Opéra Berlioz) Festival de Radio France et Montpellier. Jeanne. La Vivandière. Benjamin Godard.
- •Opéra de Tours, Opéra de Reims. Donna Anna. Don Giovanni. Mozart. Jean-Yves Ossonce.
- •Tour with Opéra de Montpellier . Opéra de Nîmes, Théâtre de l'Archipel, Perpignan. Contessa. Le Nozze di Figaro.
- •Théâtre des Champs Elysées Egmont. Beethoven. Orchestre de chambre de Paris. John Nelson.
- •Théâtre des Champs Elysées Elvira. *Italiana in Algeri*. Rossini. Sir Roger Norrington

### 2013

- •Cité des Congrès, Nice Juliette. Roméo et Juliette. Gounod. Orchestre de Région Centre-Tours. Jean-Yves Ossonce
- •Théâtre des Champs Elysées Magnificat in D. Bach, Orchestre de chambre de Paris, John Nelson.

### 2012

- Verbier, Switzerland Verbier Festival Christmas concert.
- •Paris, 104 Concert arias. Giulio Bajamonti. Orchestre philharmonique de Radio France. Jaime Martin
- •Verbier , Suisse Contessa. Le Nozze di Figaro. Verbier Festival Academy.
- •Wuhan, China Qintai Concert Hall New Year Concerts. Wuhan philharmonic orchestra. James Liu
- •Hamar, Norway Vang Church A Christmas Concert In Norway. Trondheim Solosts.

# THE ARTISTE - OPERA/CONCERT/TOUR

- •Paris Symphony no. 4 Mahler . Julien Guénebaut
- Tour with Ensemble Court Circuit Ensemble Ultima Festival, Paris Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord– Première mondiale de Le nubi non scoppiano per il peso de Mauro Lanza. Jean Deroyer.
- •Savona, Italy Teatro Chiabrera di Savona Concert arias. Mozart. Orchestra di Savona. Pietro Borgonovo
- •Paris Cité de la Musique Concert avec la violoniste Mia Bodet.
- •Nice Silvia, L'Isola Disabitata, Manuel Garcia.
- •Salzburg Récital au Schloss Frohnburg sur invitation de Grace Bumbry.
  - •Cagliari Teatro Lirico di Cagliari Recital with the pianist Karolos Zouganelis.
  - •Paris Théâtre du Rond Point Jeune Femme d'Hara Kei. World premiere of Soie. Yves Prin.
  - Paris Théâtre du Chatelet Solis. Magdalena. Heitor Villa-Lobos. Sébastien Rouland. Kate Whorisky.
  - •St Petersburg State Opera and Ballet Theatre Eurydice. Orphée et Eurydice. Gluck.
  - •Paris -Salle Pleyel. Recital of Lieder by Mahler.
  - •Paris Maurice Fleuret Hall, CNSMDP. Female Chorus. The Rape of Lucretia. Benjamin Britten.



# **DISCOGRAPHY**

Art songs. Omo Bello, soprano

Rebecca Omordia, pianist

Produced by Siva Oke, Somm Recordings.

(Post Production)

Missa Cellensis. Joseph Haydn. Omo Bello, soprano,

Géraldine Mélac, Mezzosoprano,

Michel Piquemal, conductor. (ADF-Bayard musique;

[France]:distribution Sofédis)

Des Knaben Wunderhorn. Gustav Mahler . Omo Bello, soprano,

omo bello, soprano,

Julien Guénebaut, Estuko Hirose, piano.

(Worldwide distribution by Harmonia Mundi).



2024

2016

2013

# **FILMOGRAPHY**

2015 Omo Bello, I want to be a primadonna

Documentary by Gérald Caillat. Produced by

Kaléo Films, in coproduction with Vosges TV.

Castor et Pollux, by Jean-Philippe Rameau

Filmed at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées, Paris.

Omo Bello : Télaire. Stage Director: Christian

Schiaretti. Conductor: Hervé Niquet







# COMPETITIONS AND PRIZES

Feb 2014 4	Les Victoires de la Musique Classique (French Grammy's) – Nominated in the «Lyrical revelation of the year » category
Jan 2014	Paris International Opera Competition – 1st Prize, French Opera Prize and Public prize
Nov 2013	Premio arca d'oro – The Golden Arc Prize (Torino, Italy)
Sep 2011	Cziffra Foundation Competitions (Senlis, France) – Grand prize

Dec 2010 Luciano Pavarotti Competition for Young Singers(Vercelli, Italy) – 1st prize

Italy) – 1st prix

Anselmo Colzani singing competition (Budrio,

Mar 2011



# THE ARTISTE – THIS SEASON

In the 2023/2024 season, Omo Bello recorded a new album of art songs with the pianist Rebeca Omordia, produced by Siva Oke of Somm Recordings.

She founded The Omo Bello Music Foundation (OBMF), an NGO, whose aim is to discover, develop and ultimately promote the musical talents in children.

Omo Bello is a goodwill ambassador of Rotary International.



# MUSICAL EDUCATION

2011 Paris - Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris (CNSMDP).

Diplôme National Supérieur Professionnel de Musicien (DNSPM), and Masters degree.

2011 Paris – Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV)

Bachelor's degree in Music and Musicology

2007 Paris - École Normale de Musique de Paris.
Diplôme d'Exécution with a unanimous vote of the jury

2006 London - The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM).

Singing Performance Diploma

2005-2006 Toulouse - Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de Musique et de Danse (CESMD).

Class of Anne Fondeville-Bleuse.

# **INTERNATIONAL PRESS**

### **BBC Portrait**

Nigerian scientist turned opera star

https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-35310184

### **RFI Portraits**

The French-Nigerian opera singer Omo Bello

http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20140121-cantatrice-omo-bello

Omo Bello, a soprano with an uncommon destiny

http://www.rfi.fr/mfi/20140124-omo-bello-soprano-nigeria-musique-classique-lyrique

Omo Bello: the Nigerian soprano's star is rising in France

https://www.rfi.fr/en/culture/20190516-omo-bello-nigerian-sopranos-star-rising-france

### **TV5 MONDE Portrait**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOZ4DdScKHA

### **JOURNAL DE DIMANCHE Portrait**

At rehearsals with Omo Bello

https://www.lejdd.fr/Culture/Musique/LeJDD-fr-en-repetition-avec-Omo-Bello-laureate-de-Paris-Opera-Competition-64

# **INTERNATIONAL PRESS**

### **DIAPASON MAGAZINE Portrait**

Omo Bello, a very talented soprano

http://www.diapasonmag.fr/actualites/a-la-une/omo-bello-une-jeune-soprano-pleine-de-talent

### **TUTTI MAGAZINE Portrait**

Interview with Omo Bello, soprano

http://www.tutti-magazine.fr/news/page/Omo-Bello-Soprano-Mahler-Knaben-Wunderhorn-Victoires-Musique-Traviata-

### **LA TERRASSE Portrait**

Omo Bello

http://www.journal-laterrasse.fr/focus/omo-bello/

### **CLASSIQUE NEWS Portrait**

Omo Bello, sacred" diva" (Paris International Opera Competition 2014)

http://www.classiquenews.com/paris-concours-omo-bello-sacree-diva-paris-international-opera-competition-2014/

# **NIGERIAN PRESS**

### Channels Television

Interview with Omo Bello on Channels Television « Artiste of the Week »

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7rGwdeXpwU

### RED TV

Interview with Omo Bello on RedTV « Exclusives »

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lhqHszsB6E

# **NIGERIAN PRESS**



Saturday, December 24, 2011

weekend magazine wm 19

Rello

Talking music with Nigeria's opera star



Culturally-speaking, I went to France on a quest for the knowledge of a musical art form that originated in Europe, so from the start I was very open in my mind-set. I was extremely hungry to discover new things, practically like a sponge soaking up water rapidly. I still am like that. You must note that I was placed side by side with colleagues who had been studying music since they were 5 years of age



# **NIGERIAN PRESS**

20 wm weekend magazine

Saturday, December 24, 2011

### Continued from page 19

age, so I knew I had a lot of catching up to do. Needless to say I had to work at least twice as hard as my colleagues since I wasn't born into this culture. One would expect that my first few years should have been hard, but on the contrary, that passion was my driving force, I currently live in Furis, and as the capital

of France, it's a vibrant and multi-cultural city.

I doubt I can ever be completely used to the extremely cold winters here in Europe, but

White termentation is white the cymerics whate was considering ment and operated and operated conservative to the Belloe. I developed my singing voice semally in a specialised music higher my debut album in the conting were 2012. At stitution, called a conservatory of music, for vou can see, I intend to take my career to the

# Omo Bello

# una norm, sone greno ente transacion. That oppose motifications in solivol politica un formation. Talking music with Nigeria's opera statar different places in the world, discourse different places in the world, discourse different changes, to both of discourse.

With: What do your prents think about your curve choice?

Bellon My fathes an architect, was extremely in a loud voice for extended periods of time sleeping. Its major cencern

In other words, as a singer, I live my life with

supplied for beginning Hit major comes must be for year that got been given being I was a singer. Here syll it will be the supplied by the production and there will be a single fine of the production of the pro









### PUNCH midweek revue

of users of musical works and sound recordings, its real mission was to extend the current campaign against copyright violation across the country to the

As part of its itinerary, the group paid a courtesy visit to Governor Adams Oshiomhole and informed him about its drive to ensure that royalties were duly paid to copyright owners in the state. In his response, the

governor called on all government agencies and private institutions in Nigeria to henceforth obey the law and ensure that they pay royalties for musical works used in public. "Nigeria must enforce its awards' websites.

copyright law the way it is done in any other civilised studying Cell Biology and part of the world. If we are Genetics at the university in a democracy then we in her native country, the must enforce laws as they Franco-Nigerian soprano affect intellectual property rights," Oshiomhole said. Promising full support for the collecting agency, Oshiomhole pointed out class of Peggy Bouveret

a comprehensive licensing levels to protect intellectual so," he said.

Amajor achievement is and enriched her repertoire with Jeff Cohen Susan Bello is one of the three

nominees in the "Lyrical Revelation of the Year" category.
According to a statement. the annual French awards ceremony is equivalent to the American "Grammy

Awards" for music. The winner will I decided by the public
who are expected to vote between January 6 and 26, via the artiste's or the After five years of

Omo Bello entirely devoted herself to music, studying singing at the Conservatoire de Paris - CNSMDP, in the

and 'Phone Swap'. Omo Bello nominated for French awards

Pavarotti Giovani 2010

with Jeff Cohen, Susan competition (thus lauded based soprano singer, Manoff and Olivier Reboul. by the Italian press critic She holds a diploma in Gianni Gori as «a talent nominated for the 2014 singing performance from of Gold! »), and also the Associated Board of won the 1st prize in the la Musique 2014" awards in the Royal Schools of Music, 2011 Anselmo Colzani London (ABRSM) and has international gained enormously from competition. She became the musical and technical a laureate of the Cziffra

counsels of Jorge Chaminé, Foundation in 2011 and she Teresa Berganza, Thomas will be awarded with Italy's Quasthoff and Grace prestigious international Bumbry. She won the Arca d'Oro prize for young 1st Prize in the Luciano artists in 2013.



ADVERTORIA

### **Traditional dance** in Nigeria

Important Cases decided by the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court in 2012

Etim Henshaw: Nigeria's first national football captain Grab your copy!

# **AFRICAN PRESS**



WE'VE COME FOR HER, FOR OMO Bello, "says a portly Frenchman sitting in a stall with his companion." What a voice!" These sentiments are often heard when people speak of Bello, the young Nigerian soprano who has been winning prizes in Europe and gaining a growing fan base.

Tonight she is performing with the acclaimed Chamber Orchestra of Paris, after having had to learn a difficult Bach piece in only a few days because the scheduled singer has fallen ill. Bello does not disappoint, her voice rising pure and sure in the theatre.

Later, however, she will downplay her performance, "It was okay," she says, her attitude reflecting her quest for perfection. Others comment that she makes it look so easy. It is this perfectionism and "owning" of the theatre that have been swaying both audiences and judges in music competitions.

audiences and judges in music competitions.
Bello, 28, based in Paris, first caused
opera lovers to sit up and take notice when

she won the top prize in the 2010 Luciano Pavarotti Giovani competition in Vercelli, Italy. Because of her name, many people thought she was Italian and spectators wanted to know more about the composed young woman with the powerful stage presence.

woman with the powerful stage presence. Bello followed up that success with first place in the prestigious Anselmo Coltas international singing competition in Budrio, Italy, in 2011, while in France she received the Criffits Poundation grand prize for exceptionally talented young musicians. She Musical Funda, and acts as a Goodwill Arm-bassador for Rotary International. She is unmorted by several music foundations.

Besides France and Italy, Bello has performed in England, Japan, Chile, China, Nigeria, and other countries. She now has French-Nigerian dual citizenship. She got married last autumn and has a full schedule of recitals in several French cities throughout this year.

Meanwhile her first CD is scheduled to be released this month (April). The and Omo at a festival in Italy and I adored her voice," says Laurence Heym, artistic director of the Trench independent record label, Eloquentia. "This CD is the beginning of recordings that will bring her gifts to a wider audience. We think whe has a beautiful career ahead of ther."

Bello sings Gustav Mahler's Des Knaben Wunderhorn (The Youth's Magic Horn) on the CD. accompanied by pianist Julien Guénebaut. Its launch will take place amidst a packed schedule, as in July Bello will be performing the role of Jeanne in Benjamin Godard's La vitandière - a comic oppera in three acts - in Montpellier, France.

Then from September to November, she will take on the lyrically challenging role of Donna Anna in Mozart's Don Giovanni at the Opera of Reims and the Opera of Tours, also in France.

She says she is getting used to the de-

mands of her chosen field, but she knows that she has come a very long way. Bello was studying cell biology and genetics at the University of Lagos when she was invited to sing at a concert organised by the French cultural centre there.

When Jean-Yves Gillon, the cultural attaché to Nigeria, heard her voice, he immediately felt that her talent had to be nurtured, and he arranged for a scholarship in France. He later admitted that he had little knowledge of opera, but like many others who have heard Bello, Gillon said her singing touched him deeply.

"I had to come to France to do auditions to find out if there was a talent, and if I could continue with this," Bello recalls. She knew she did not have the "level to technique" to be accepted directly into the Conservatorie National de Musique et de Danue de Paris (CSSMDP), but there was no doubt that the voice was there, according to singing teacher Peggy Bouwerber Peggs of

When I first met her, I could see that there was promise but I was not at all sure she could do it, but she was very brave and she had determination," Bouveret recalls. "She did have the beginnings of a voice although it was far away from what she needed for a career, Still, she had promise in every way."

Another teacher who heard Bello sing when she arrived in France is the renowned Portuguese bartione Jorge Chaminé, and he says he knew right away that she was going to become one of the most important singers of her generation.

"I was absolutely impressed by the quality of her voice," Chaminé told New African. "The timbre was beautiful, even without technique. It really has been my luck to work with her since 2005, and to see her become such a fine artist."

With support from mentors like Chamine as well as belief in her own ability, Bello embarked on her new adventure, but first she decided to complete her bachelor's degree in cell biology and genetics. Once that was accomplished, everything nushed by: she graduated from the University of Lagos on a Friday and travelled to France the following Sunday, in the summer of 200-5.

She took her first opera courses at the regional conservatory in Toulouse, in southern France, and two years later moved to the French capital Paris to the Conservation National. The scholarship she received funded her work with singing-teacher Bouveret, who is known for her ability to get the best

Omar Bello in performance: The quality of her voice and the passion of her delivery has won over European audinces from students. It was Bouveret who insisted that Bello try to maintain her natural approach to singing.

proach to singing.

Bello graduated from the conservatory in June 2011, having followed courses in piano, excal technique, thearte, darnatic arts and languages. She had to be able to sing in French, Inalian, German and Russian before seeping out in the professional world, and now she credits the rough training with enabling her to be ready for a part at short notice.

"The experience at the conservatory prepares you for these demanding roles," she told *New African*. "I don't think I would have been able to do it otherwise."

The conservatory may have strengthened her technique, but Bello stands out not only for the purity of her voice but also for the "naturalness" of her stage presence.

She makes audiences believe in the range of emotions that a piece may be portraying,

"Singing does a lot for me... God made the human voice into the most complete instrument, and it's very gratifying."

.......



because she herself seems to feel the joy, anger or sadness of the character. Her acting and singing skills go hand in hand to make it all look so effortless.

"I think it's quite impressive what she has attained in so few years, says former teacher Chamine." She is now recognised by celebrities in the lyrical world as someone who is very gifted, and she is in a very important position now for the future."

Bello herself says that singing gives her pleasure and she likes to take pleasure in whatever she is doing, even if she is not necessarily an extroverted person. In fact, she sometimes comes across as unusually serious for someone of her age.

"Singing does a lot for me... God made the human voice into the most complete instrument, and it's very gratifying," she says. Her audiences also feel gratified when

Her audiences also feel gratified when they hear her, and along the way she has garnered numerous fans. Paris resident Clarisse Delettre who knows Bello both at home and onstage says the Nigerian touches people because of her belief in what she does and because of her willingness to work hard.

Deletre's daughter Cecile, an ethnomusicologist, had met Bello in Nigeria, and the family welcomed Bello into their home when the singer arrived in Paris.

"One quiddy learned French, which we writes almost faultiesly now, and she got used to the cold and the culture, and accepted the difficult life of Parisians who do not have a lot of money." Deleter said accepted the difficult life of Parisians who do not have a lot of money. Deleters with career. Deleters have been done to the control of the contro

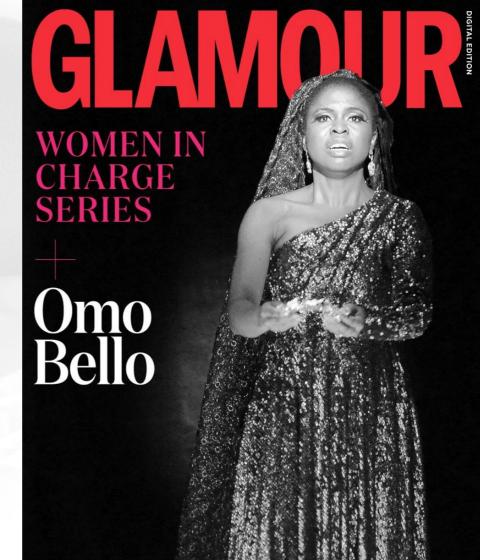
"The growing process never stops," she says. She is aware that she is becoming a role model for other young opera singers in Africa, where the only established schools devoted to the art are in South Africa.

"It's so great to meet other African singers in Europe," Bello says. "We always look at one another and smile at the realisation that we're not alone."

Meanwhile, she has been giving back to her homeland, building a house for her parents and supporting the building of a music conservatory in Abuja, the Nigerian capital.

(Alecia McKenzie is the author of several books, including "Sweethears", which won the 2012 Commonwealth Book Prize for the Caribbean Region)

# **AFRICAN PRESS**



# LISTEN TO OMO BELLO

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyGOQoXyWTA

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPnqrRpMBj0

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