



STRATAGEM  
ARTISTS

ARTIST DRIVEN COLLABORATION

## Brandon Bell Baritone

Brandon Bell is a young baritone making waves in the operatic landscape within North America. In the summer of 2021, Mr. Bell was granted a fellowship at the Ravinia Festival's Steans Music Institute in their program for singers where he studied and performed a variety of art song repertoire. He also joined Des Moines Metro Opera in 2021 as an Apprentice Artist where he covered the roles of Momus in *Platée* and Hawkins Fuller in *Fellow Travelers* and sang the roles of General Arlie and the Bartender in *Fellow Travelers*. This season, Mr. Bell joins Fort Worth Opera as one of their Lesley Resident Artists where he will appear as Gomez in the world premiere production of *Zorro*. Additionally, this season, Mr. Bell will cover the dynamic role of Germont and sing Baron Douphol in Fort Worth Opera's production of *La traviata* and joined White Snake Projects for their concerts *Sing Strong: Incarcerated Voices* and *Sing Strong: Remembered Voices*. In the summer of 2022, Mr. Bell will return to Des Moines Metro Opera, singing Jim and covering Jake in *Porgy & Bess*, and covering Thomas McKeller in the midwest premiere of *American Apollo* (Geter / Palmer).

Mr. Bell recently finished his tenure as a Resident Artist with Utah Opera where he appeared in several virtually streamed concerts including *Songs for Our Time* and *Light on the Horizon*. On stage, he performed with Utah Opera as Dr. Grenvil in *La traviata*, the British Major in *Silent Night*, Montague Somers in *Gentleman's Island*, and Garcia/Zuniga in *La tragédie de Carmen*.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID19 pandemic, Mr. Bell received cancellations which included numerous exciting role premieres with Utah Opera including Fiorello in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, the Steward in *Flight*, Sciarrone in *Tosca*, and Samuel in *Pirates of Penzance*. Mr. Bell was also to be featured as the baritone soloist in Fauré's *Requiem* with Utah Symphony (COVID19).

Other recent engagements include Mr. Bell's portrayal of Terry in West Edge Opera's production of Missy Mazzoli's *Breaking the Waves*, Colline in West Bay Opera's production of *La bohème*, and the Corporal in *La fille du régiment*, as a Festival Artist with Opera Saratoga.

During the 2017-18 season, Mr. Bell appeared as a Studio Artist at Chautauqua Opera, covering the roles of Masetto and Il Commendatore in their summer production of *Don Giovanni*. The season also saw Mr. Bell as a soloist in Mozart's *Requiem* with the California Symphony and as a featured ensemble singer with the Oakland Symphony in their *Pride & Prejudice: Notes from LGBTQ* concert.

Mr. Bell is a proud alumnus of the prestigious Wolf Trap Opera Studio Artist program where, in the summer of 2015, he was seen as the English Ambassador in Corigliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles* and the L'imperial Commissario in *Madama Butterfly*. In 2017, Mr. Bell returned to Wolf Trap Opera to appear in the world premiere performances of *Listen, Wilhelmina!*, a mini-opera for children.

Mr. Bell, with affection and fascination for new works, was a Featured Dater in the world premiere performances of *Speed Dating Tonight!* by Michael Ching. He also appeared as Hymie Felderman in the workshop of Ricky Ian Gordon's *Morning Star* with Opera Fusion: New Works, a collaboration between Cincinnati Opera and CCM Opera.

Mr. Bell was awarded an Encouragement Award in the Utah District of the 2021 Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition. He was also awarded 4th Place in the 2018 East Bay Opera League Young Artist Scholarship Awards Competition and was chosen from National auditions as a finalist in the 2018 Mondavi Center Young Artist Competition. In 2017, he received both Third Place (Student Division) - Orpheus Da Capo Award at the Orpheus National Music Competition for Vocalists and the Leola Boyce Award, awarded by the Knoxville Choral Society. The Cleveland Foundation chose Mr. Bell as the 2015 and 2016 recipient of its A. Grace Lee Mims Vocal Scholarship, awarded in recognition of his commitment to the perpetuation of the singing of the Negro spiritual.

Mr. Bell is a graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music where he received a Postgraduate Diploma in Vocal Performance. He additionally holds his Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.