



## **DARREN K. STOKES**

### *Bass-Baritone*

American Bass-Baritone **Darren K. Stokes** is a young artist of exceptional vocal ability and promise. He possesses a voice of extraordinary richness with a broad vocal range, and he sings with a singular ease. Mr. Stokes has added **41 roles** to his repertoire since embarking on a singing career in 2002 and he has been in very high demand since having completed two seasons with the distinguished **Ryan Opera Center of the Lyric Opera of Chicago**. **Most recent and upcoming** projects since leaving the Ryan Opera Center include debut performances in Rachmaninoff's *The Bells, Opus 35 (Baritone Solo)* with the **Grant Park Music Festival**, *Calkas (Troilus and Cressida)* for **Opera Theater of St. Louis**, *Ferrando (Il Trovatore)* for **Indianapolis Opera**, *Commendatore (Don Giovanni)* for **Eugene Opera**, and a return to the **Lyric Opera of Chicago** stage as a guest artist in *Porgy and Bess*. Mr. Stokes looks forward to his debut with the **Washington National Opera** in the **2009-2010 season** singing the role of *Jake (Porgy and Bess)* in addition to his **Nashville Symphony debut** in a reprise of Rachmaninoff's *The Bells*. Additional assignments in the **2008-2009 season** comprise debut performances for **Opera Memphis** as *Méphistophélès* in *Faust* and *Parson Alltalk* and *Producer #2* in *Treemonisha*. Mainstage performances in recent seasons include *Neptune* in Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses* for **Chicago Opera Theater**, the *Imperial Commissioner (Madama Butterfly)* for the **Ravinia Festival** and the *Father (La Forza del Destino)* in a debut performances with **Cincinnati May Festival** under the direction of Mo. James Conlon.

A highlight in Mr. Stokes's 2<sup>nd</sup> season at the Ryan Opera Center was his **Lyric Opera main stage debut in the lead role of General Groves** which he performed as replacement for an indisposed principal. Highlights in his first season with the company included *Iphigénie en Tauride*, *Dialogues des Carmélites*, and *Salome* with covers of *Ferrando (Il Trovatore)*, the Duke of Verona (*Roméo et Juliette*), *Mandarin (Turandot)*, and the Marquis (*Dialogues des Carmélites*). In addition to the replacement performance of *General Groves*, 2007-2008 season roles include **Basilio (Il Barbiere di Siviglia)** on the main stage for a Student Matinee, with **Zaretsky (Eugene Onegin)** and **Curio (Giulio Cesare)** which he performs in all main stage performances. Cover assignments for the Lyric include **Grenvil (La Traviata)**, **Colline (La Bohème)** which he previously performed for Sarasota Opera, and **Achilla (Giulio Cesare)**.

Mr. Stokes has performed with distinguished young artists' programs in addition to the Ryan Opera Center. During his tenure with **Glimmerglass Opera** in **2005** as a member of the Young American Studio Artist program, he sang the the Russian Father and the Priest in St. Mark's Square in Tazewell Thompson's acclaimed production of *Death in Venice*. He covered the Lido Boatman (*Death in Venice*) and Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*), adding important roles to his growing repertoire.

In the **2004-2005 Season** and in addition to his work for Glimmerglass Opera, Mr. Stokes participated in the season long intensive Apprentice Artists Program at **Sarasota Opera** and was awarded the **2005 Leo M. Rogers Scholarship for Outstanding Apprentice**. He returned to Sarasota Opera for the **2005-2006 Season** where he performed the role of Antonio (*The Marriage of Figaro*) and covered the role of Figaro. Additional assignments for Sarasota Opera included concerts as part of the Fall Outreach program and Colline in a main stage student performance of *La bohème*. **Other projects** in the 2005-2006 Season comprised King Balthazar (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*) for **Opera Memphis**, an Opera Gala Concert for **Opera Company of North Carolina**, and a tour of Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha* with **Rick Benjamin's Paragon Ragtime Orchestra** – the world's only year-round, professional organization performing ragtime-era music.

Mr. Stokes began his professional music career with **Virginia Opera** in the opera chorus and subsequently toured New York State with various gospel groups. In addition to **Sarasota Opera**, **Opera Memphis**, **Virginia Opera** and **Glimmerglass Opera**, Mr. Stokes has sung with **Natchez Opera Festival**, **Opera Company of Brooklyn**, **Ash-Lawn Opera Festival**, **Amato Opera Theatre**, **Taconic Opera Company** and the **New York Opera Forum**. To date, roles which Mr. Stokes has performed include Colline (*La bohème*), Ferrando (*Il trovatore*), Count Ceprano (*Rigoletto*), Crespel (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), the Duke of Verona (*Roméo et Juliette*), Antonio (*The Marriage of Figaro*), King Balthazar (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*), Bluesman (*American Riversongs*), and York in Michael Ching's *Corps of Discovery*, an American opera commissioned by the University of Missouri to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial celebration.

Mr. Stokes received a Bachelor of Science degree from Norfolk State University in his home state of Virginia and worked as a chemist before turning to music. Mr. Stokes recently received an encouragement award from the prestigious **William Matheus Sullivan Musical Foundation**.