

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 **43 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**.

Mr. Stokes has had the pleasure of performing with prominent companies throughout the US. He has sung with Grant Park Music Festival, Nashville Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati May Festival, Boston Lyric Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Washington National Opera, Opera Theater of St. Louis, San Francisco Opera, the Ravinia Festival, Opera Memphis, San Antonio Opera, Indianapolis Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, San Francisco Opera, Opera Saratoga (Lake George Opera), Eugene Opera, and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Mr. Stokes makes mainstage debuts with The Dallas Opera, Seattle Opera and the Cleveland Orchestra both in Cleveland and NYC at Carnegie Hall and Buffalo Symphony Orchestra in upcoming seasons. On the operatic mainstage, he has performed *Figaro (Le Nozze di Figaro)*, *Calkas (Troilus and Cressida)*, *Ferrando (Il Trovatore)*, *Zuniga (Carmen)*, *Commendatore (Don Giovanni)*, *Imperial Commissioner (Madame Butterfly)*, *General Groves (Dr. Atomic)*, *Mèphistophélès (Faust)*, *Escamillo (Carmen and Le Tragedie de Carmen)*, *Jake/The Undertaker (Porgy and Bess)*, *Theseus (A Midsummer Night's Dream)*, *Neptune (The Return of Ulysses)*, and *Parson Alltalk (Treemonisha)* among many others. Important additions by way of principal role covers include *Queequeg* in the World Premiere of Jake Heggie's *Moby Dick* for Dallas Opera and *Crown (Porgy and Bess)* for Seattle Opera.

The **2011-2012 season** offers several **role and mainstage company debuts** as *Banquo (Macbeth)* for **Boston Lyric Opera**, *2nd Armored Man* for **The Dallas Opera**, and the *5th Jew and Cappadocian* for the **Cleveland Orchestra** in a debut with the orchestra in Cleveland and at Carnegie Hall. Also in the season, Mr. Stokes returns to **Indianapolis Opera** and records *Parson Alltalk (Treemonisha)*. He looks forward to a debut with **The Buffalo Symphony** in 2013. Prior seasons have been equally full for Mr. Stokes. **Projects in 2010 and 2011** for Mr. Stokes comprise a company debut with the **Washington National Opera** singing the role of *Jake (Porgy and Bess)* along with a company debut with **Lake George Opera** in a reprise of *Escamillo (Carmen)*, a debut with **The Dallas Opera** where he adds the role of *Queequeg* to his repertoire as a cover to Jonathan Lemalu in the **World Premiere** of Jake Heggie's *Moby Dick*, a return to the **Ravinia Festival** to sing *Distant Worlds/Final Fantasy* with the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra**, and role debuts as *Figaro (Le Nozze di Figaro)* for **San Antonio Opera** and *Theseus (A Midsummer Night's Dream)* in a return to **Boston Lyric Opera**. Mr. Stokes also looks forward to singing *Parson Alltalk* in an upcoming recording of *Treemonisha* and a return to Indianapolis Opera for *Escamillo* in performances of *Le Tragedie de Carmen*.

Important assignments in **2009** included a reprise of Rachmaninoff's *The Bells* in debut performances with the **Nashville Symphony**, a company debut with **Boston Lyric Opera** as *Zuniga (Carmen)*, debut

performances as *Mèphistophélès* in *Faust* and *Parson Alltalk* and *Producer #2* in *Treemonisha* for **Opera Memphis** and a company debut with the **San Francisco Opera** in *Porgy and Bess*. Other 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 performances with **Cincinnati May Festival** under the direction of the distinguished Mo. James Conlon.

A highlight in Mr. Stokes's 2nd 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 trained with distinguished young artists' programs in addition to the Ryan Opera Center including **Glimmerglass Opera** and **Sarasota Opera** - where he was awarded the **2005 Leo M. Rogers Scholarship for Outstanding Apprentice**. He has also toured with **Rick Benjamin's Paragon Ragtime Orchestra** – the world's only year-round, professional organization performing ragtime-era music – and toured in New York State with various gospel groups. Mr. Stokes is an award recipient from the prestigious **William Matheus Sullivan Musical Foundation**.