

JOHN IRVIN TENOR

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Praised most recently in his performance with The Orchestra for the Age of Enlightenment for his “golden sound” and “elegant wit”, Mr. Irvin is fast establishing himself in a diverse array of repertoire, from the obscure early romantic works of Méhul to the delightful comedies and epic tragedies of Rossini. Garnering reviews for his “irresistibly charming, commanding, clarion tenor”, John Irvin has made several notable debuts, both in the United States and in Europe. Recent credits include **Lyric Opera of Chicago’s** highly anticipated world premiere of Lopez’s *Bel Canto*, where Irvin brought “a handsome tenor voice and talented hands to the production with a searing portrayal of the diva’s doomed accompanist. This past year, Irvin made several European debuts as the tenor soloist in Berlioz’s *Grande Messe des Morts* with **Bochumer Symphoniker**, Rodolfo in a new production of Puccini’s *La Bohème* at **Oper Heidelberg**, soloist in Berlioz’s *Lélio* with **Beethovenfest Bonn** and as Lucas in the world premiere of Thomas Ades’ *The Exterminating Angel* at the **Salzburg Festival**.

Originally a pianist, Irvin discovered his passion for singing in 2008 where he went on to earn his Bachelor of Music magna cum laude from Georgia State University (2010) and Professional Certificate from Boston University’s Opera Institute (2012). An alumnus of **The Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center** at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Irvin covered and performed over twenty roles for Lyric Opera’s mainstage season. Highlights include stepping in as Don Ottavio for the *Stars of Lyric Opera at Millennium Park* performance, as Lord Percy in the final dress rehearsal of Donizetti’s *Anna Bolena*, and as Alfred for two performances of *Die Fledermaus*. In addition to the main stage, he has performed selections from Schubert’s *Die Winterreise* with artist and director William Kentridge, performed selection of Strauss songs with Civic Orchestra at Symphony Center, and portrayed Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*, Act 1) with the Grant Park Music Festival. During this time, Irvin also made debuts with **Madison Opera** (*Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *Roméo et Juliette*, both with John DeMain), **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** (Beyond the Score with Stéphane Denève), **Los Angeles Philharmonic** (Giuseppe, Verdi’s *La Traviata* and Don Curzio, Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro* with Gustavo Dudamel) and **Melbourne Symphony Orchestra** (Beethoven Symphony no. 9 with Sir Andrew Davis).

Irvin was invited to the Georg Solti Accademia in Italy in 2015 where he was able to continue intensive study of the *bel canto* tradition with notable artists Barbara Frittoli, Leo Nucci, Silvana Bartoli, and Sir Richard Bonynge.

Irvin attended **Boston University’s Opera Institute**, where he was awarded the **Esther B. and Albert S. Kahn Career Entry Award**. His credits include Chevalier de la Force (*Dialogues of the Carmelites*), Paolino (*Il Matrimonio Segreto*), Roméo (*Roméo et Juliette*) and Nick Papadakis (*The Postman Always Rings Twice*). A **Boston Lyric Opera** Emerging Artist, Irvin made his debut as Malcolm in their production of Verdi’s *Macbeth*. Also appearing in Opera America’s New Works Sampler, Irvin performed as Greenhorne in selections from Jake Heggie’s *Moby Dick* with Maestro Heggie at the piano.

In 2011, Irvin was an apprentice with the **Santa Fe Opera** where he covered roles in Puccini’s *La Bohème* and Menotti’s *The Last Savage*. He was given the great opportunity to sing as The Detective and The Bailiff in a workshop presentation of Theodore Morrison’s newly commissioned work, *Oscar*. This intimate performance featured selections from the opera with countertenor David Daniels in the title role. Irvin was awarded the **Agnes M. Canning Memorial Award for Singers**.

A Bonfils-Stanton Studio Artist at **Central City Opera** in 2010, Irvin study covered B.F. Pinkerton and performed scenes from Bizet’s *Carmen*, Hoiby’s *A Month in the Country*, Verdi’s *La Traviata* and *Rigoletto*. At the conclusion of the program, he received the prestigious **David R. Gloss Award for Excellence**.

Irvin recently represented Lyric Opera at the **Stella Maris International Voice Competition** (2014). He has earned the 2012 Encouragement Award from the **Gerda Lissner Foundation’s International Vocal Competition** and the John Moriarty Encouragement Award for the 2012 **Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions** (New England Region). A finalist for the 2012 Sara Tucker study grant, other accomplishments include being a 2012 **Liederkrantz Foundation I.V.C.** finalist, a 2011 MONCA Finalist (New England Region) and earning 2nd place in the 6th annual **Peter Elvins Vocal Competition**.