



CURTIS BANNISTER

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SAG-AFTRA / AGMA / AEA



DDO ARTIST AGENCY
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FILM & TELEVISION

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever	TBA	Marvel Studios/Disney
The Conductor	Curtis (Self as The Celebrant)	Tribeca Film Festival
Dickinson	Marquis/Opera Member 1 (Co-Star, Season 2)	Apple TV+
A Friend Named Paul	Paul	VARSAITY
Chicago Fire	Reimers (Co-Star, Season 6)	NBC Universal
Get Real	Curtis	CBS/Warner Brothers Studios/PBS
Kenny Rogers Christmas Special	Soloist	Kenny Rogers Productions

TOURS

Ravel: Bolero	Ensemble Dancer	Ballet d'Opera National de Paris North American Tour
Ain't Misbehavin'	Andre DeShields	Olney Theatre Center / The National Players (dir.: Devron T. Young)

NATIONAL & REGIONAL THEATRE

Ragtime!: The Musical	Coalhouse Walker, Jr.	Music Theater Works (dir.: Stacey Flaster)
2021 Gala: TOGETHER	Duet with Heather Headley	Goodman Theatre
Ain't Misbehavin'	Andre	Theatre at the Center (dir.: Daryl Brooks)-CANCELED; Covid-19
Richard Rodgers' Greatest Hits	Soloist	Music Theatre Works (dir.: Adrian Azevedo)
The Boys in the Band	Bernard (u/s)	Windy City Playhouse (dir.: Carl Menninger)
The Gospel at Colonus	Theseus	Skylight Music Theatre (dir.: Sheri Williams Pannell)
The Pajama Game	Sid Sorokin	Theatre at the Center (dir.: Linda Fortunato)
MASS (Bernstein)	Street Singer, Celebrant (u/s)	Chicago Symphony Orchestra (dir.: Kevin Newbury)
Candide	Ragotski	The Philadelphia Orchestra (dir.: Kevin Newbury)
Kiss Me, Kate	Paul	Saint Petersburg Opera (dir.: Daryl Gray)
The Last 5 Years	Jamie	Jedlicka Performing Arts Center (dir.: Issac Toomes)
Marie Christine	Jean	BoHo Theatre (dir.: Lilli-Ann Brown)
Parade	Jim Conley/Newt Lee/Riley	Writers Theatre (dir.: Gary Griffin)
On A Clear Day...	Edward Moncreif	Porchlight Music Theatre (dir.: Lili-Anne Brown)
Sondheim: Passion (Concert)	Lieutenant Barri	Writers Theatre (dir.: Stephen Schellhardt)
Porgy & Bess	Sportin' Life	Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theater (dir.: Daniel Helfgot)
Sweeney Todd	Sweeney Todd (u/s)	Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival (MGR) (dir.: Igor Goldin)
Saturday Night Fever	Monty	Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival (MGR) (dir.: Brett Smock)
Candide	Cacambo/Baron/Ragotski	Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (dir.: Garnett Bruce)
Carousel	1st Heavenly Friend(u/s)	Lyric Opera of Chicago (dir.: Rob Ashford)
Les Miserables	Enjolras	Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theater (dir.: Val Rachelle)
Songs for a New World	Man 1	NightBlue Performing Arts Stage 773 (dir.: David Walters)
Ragtime: The Musical	Coalhouse Walker Jr.	Maryland Arts Festival (dir.: Todd Pearthree)
Titus Andronicus	Aaron the Moor	Stillpointe Theatre Initiative (dir.: Ryan Haase)

ADDITIONAL SKILLS / SPECIAL TALENTS

Advanced/Fluent in Italian, French, German, Spanish; regional southern accents, weight lifting, tumbling; dance training (modern, jazz, swing); crow calls, piano; football, track-sprinter, tennis, fencing, swimmer/diver, damn good cook/skilled in the kitchen.

CURTIS BANNISTER | TENOR

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS

Juba Freeman	Quamino's Map (wp)	Chicago Opera Theater	2022
Florestan (Stan)	Fidelio	Heartbeat Opera & Metropolitan Museum of Art	2022
Solo Recital	"All Joy Treads Water"	Festival of New American Music	2022

PERFORMED ROLES

Bootleg Joe/Leeroy	The Factotum (Workshop)	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2021
Carlos	Undying Love (wp)	Hearing in Color & WFMT	2021
Myron Davis	The Dowry (Workshop)	Cincinnati Opera	2021
Baglioni	La Hija de Rappaccini	Chicago Opera Theatre	2021
Stan/Soloist	Breathing Free	Heartbeat Opera/The Broad/Mondavi Center	2021
Stan/Soloist	Breathing Free - Fidelio	Heartbeat Opera (Visual Album Broadcasts)	2020
Hotel Manager/Usher	The Transformation of Jane Doe	Chicago Opera Theatre/Vanguard Series	2020
Rev. Jerome Mitchell [□]	Freedom Ride (wp)	Chicago Opera Theatre	2020
Street Singer / Celebrant [□]	Bernstein: Mass	Ravinia Festival/Chicago Symphony Orchestra	2019
Ragotski	Candide	The Philadelphia Orchestra	2019
Paul	Kiss Me, Kate	St. Petersburg Opera	2019
Celebrant	Bernstein: Mass	Peabody Opera	2018
Professor Hornsby/Set	The Scorpions' Sting	Lyric Opera of Chicago/Lyric Unlimited	2017
Sportin' Life	Porgy & Bess	Utah Festival Opera Company	2016
Don Jose	Carmen	Natchez Festival of Music	2016
Cacambo/Ragotski	Candide	Baltimore Symphony Orchestra	2015
Peter / Sportin' Life [□]	Porgy & Bess	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2014
Anatol [□]	Vanessa	Utah Festival Opera Company	2014
Otello	Otello	Utah Festival Opera Company	2013
Steuermann [□]	Der fliegende Holländer	Utah Festival Opera Company	2013
Lt. B. F. Pinkerton	Madama Butterfly	American Chamber Opera	2013

CONCERT | RECITAL

Soloist	Greenacres Celebration Concert	Cincinnati Symphony Pops Orchestra	2021
Soloist	"The Prayer" with Heather Headley	Goodman Theatre	2021
Strange Fruit	Soloist (Virtual Concert)	United Performing Arts Foundation	2020
Soloist	Saint-Saens: Christmas Oratorio	Musica Lumina Orchestra	2018
Soloist	Recital	Clayton Piano Festival	2018
Soloist	Haydn : Lord Nelson Mass	Baltimore Choral Arts Society	2017
Soloist	Mozart: Requiem	Musica Lumina Orchestra	2016
Uriel	Haydn: The Creation	Waukesha Choral Union	2014
Soloist [□]	Beethoven: Missa Solemnis	Utah Festival Opera Company	2013
Soloist	Handel: Messiah	Waukesha Choral Union	2013
Recital	French Melodies & Negro Spirituals	Musée de Louvre Musique de Chambre	2010

HONORS | AWARDS

Winner	Actors Equity Foundation Roger Sturtevant Award	2021
Nominee	The Drama League Awards (Outstanding Digital Concert Production)	2021
Special Award Winner	The Lotte Lenya Competition Kurt Weill Foundation	2017
U.S. Representative	Concour International de Chant de Toulouse	2016
Semi-finalist	Young Patronesses of Opera/Florida Grand Opera Voice Competition	2015

wp | world premiere
[□] | cover

CURTIS BANNISTER

BIOGRAPHY

The **2021 Actors Equity Foundation Roger Sturtevant Award** recipient and a **2021 Drama League Award** nominee, Curtis Bannister is lauded by TimeOut Magazine as "radiating with slowly simmering energy", "a tenor of impressive stamina" by The New York Times, and a "quiet revelation" by the L.A. Times as he continues to establish himself as one of the most dynamic and multi-genre performing artists of his generation for his performances in film, theatre & opera.

Bannister's 2021/22 season included his celebrated portrayal of Coalhouse Walker Jr. in **RAGTIME** with Music Theatre Works, a debut with the **Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestra** for their 2021 Greenacres Celebration Concert, a return to **Lyric Opera of Chicago** for the workshops of two new works: **THE FACTOTUM** and **TRIPTYCH**, an opera world premiere with Hearing In Color and WFMT (PBS Chicago) as Carlos in Steve Wallace's **UNDYING LOVE**, and his anticipated **New York City operatic debut** as Florestan in **FIDELIO** with Heartbeat Opera and the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Live Arts for which he received rave reviews from audiences and the press; this production of Fidelio also toured the west coast with performances at The Broad Stage (L.A.), Scottsdale Performing Arts Center (AZ), and the Mondavi Center (Davis, C.A.). In Spring 2022, Bannister stars as Juba Freeman in the **world premiere of QUAMINO'S MAP** with **Chicago Opera Theater** following his successful performances with the company as Baglioni in Catan's **LA HIJA DE RAPPACCINI**. In 2021, Bannister also became the new face of the national rebranding campaign of Pearl Milling Company (previously known as Aunt Jemima).

The 2020/21 schedule saw Curtis joining the Peabody Award-winning Apple TV+ series, **DICKINSON**, as Marquis, his debut with Chicago Opera Theatre as the Hotel Manager in **THE TRANSFORMATION OF JANE DOE**, and performances in the visual album, **BREATHING FREE**, produced by Heartbeat Opera. Later in the season, Curtis **performed with theater and film star, Heather Headley**, for the **GOODMAN THEATER**, debuted at the **TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL** in the feature film "The Conductor", and originated the role of Myron Davis in a workshop performance of the new grand opera, The Dowry, with **CINCINNATI OPERA**.

Bannister's 2019/20 live performance schedule included his debut with **The Philadelphia Orchestra**, as Ragotski, in **CANDIDE** (conducted by Yannick Nezet-Seguin and featuring Bradley Cooper & Carey Mulligan), his debut at the Ravinia Festival with the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** as a Street Singer (Celebrant cover) in Bernstein's **MASS**, and returned to the role of Sid Sorokin for his debut with Theatre at the Center in **THE PAJAMA GAME**. Curtis received rave reviews for his portrayal of Theseus in **THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS** with Skylight Music Theatre in January 2020, and was noted in the media for his April 2020 FACEBOOK LIVE performance of theater and blues songs for the **UNITED PERFORMING ARTS FOUNDATION** during the 2020 live-performance hiatus due to COVID-19.

Highlights from previous years across all genres include his co-starring as Reimers on NBC's **CHICAGO FIRE**, his debut with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as Ragotski/Cacambo in **CANDIDE** (conducted by Marin Alsop, Monty in **SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** for The Rev (formerly FLMTFI / Merry-Go-Round Playhouse), Thomas in the pre-Broadway (Broadway in Chicago) production of **AMAZING GRACE**, Jim Conley, Newt Lee, and Riley with Writers Theatre in Jason Robert Brown's **PARADE**, Jamie in Jason Robert Brown's **THE LAST 5 YEARS** with the Jedlicka Performing Arts Center, the Celebrant in Leonard Bernstein's **MASS**, again under the baton of Marin Alsop, and the role of Andre for the National Players tour of **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'** with Olney Theatre Center.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania but proudly raised in Green Bay, Wisconsin, Curtis is a graduate of The Johns Hopkins University's Peabody Institute.



CURTIS BANNISTER

PRESS

FIDELIO | HEARTBEAT OPERA

"The daring and imaginative Heartbeat Opera — an enterprise that, while small and still young, has already contributed more to opera's vitality than most major American companies — tells the story of a Black Lives Matter activist (Florestan) named Stan — sung by Curtis Bannister, a tenor of impressive stamina."

The New York Times

"Curtis Bannister as Stan is seen at the very beginning of the show but not heard until the end. The clarion sound of his tenor emerging from the dark is as startling as the physical jolt of the release of the energy coiled in his body at the moment he smells freedom. Bannister makes it clear why this opera is entitled Fidelio."

Seen and Heard International

"Curtis Bannister made the most of Florestan's cruel tessitura, his legato fine, the long-breathed reaches upward accurate and ringing, all the while expressing despair and hope in equal measure."

Opera Gazet

"Florestan becomes Stan (tenor Curtis Bannister in glorious voice), as an imprisoned Black activist being slowly starved- The spellbinding staging of (Flore)Stan's first appearance [is] an extraordinarily powerful sequence. Stan is on the ground for the entire length of his arias. Bannister's titanium voice seems at first to clash with the character's abject condition; quickly we understand it as the mettle of his inner state...we're not prepared for the revelation of Stan's condition, his solitary howl. It's a marvel of stagecraft."

Blog Critics NYC

RAGTIME | MUSIC THEATER WORKS

"...It is Curtis Bannister, as ragtime musician Coalhouse Walker Jr., who steals the show - a triple threat with his formidable operatic voice, expertly tempered dramatic intensity, and superb dance technique."

WTTW (PBS)

"Curtis Bannister's multi-layered Coalhouse Walker, Jr. is really the star of this production...this talented actor tells the story of a man that would make even the most hardened heart crack with sorrow. His rich, powerful vocalization of "Wheels of a Dream," "Sarah Brown Eyes" & "Make Them Hear You," are alone worth the price of admission."

Chicago Theater Review

"Curtis Bannister handles this role as if it were written for him- what a talent."

Around the Town Chicago

LA HIJA DE RAPPACCINI | CHICAGO OPERA THEATER

"Fellow tenor Curtis Bannister delivered an excellent, if rather youthful, Dr. Baglioni, Rappaccini's nemesis. (Bannister actually might essay an interesting Giovanni himself.)"

Opera News

"...the tenor's (Curtis Bannister) magnificent voice and singing, which moved this comprimario part to center stage in his every scene."

Chicago Classical Review

"Bannister is a well-rounded performer who has a robust voice, enticing phrasing, and a gift for acting."

Hyde Park Herald

"Also crucial to the story is Dr. Baglioni (the formidable tenor Curtis Bannister)...."

WTTW (PBS)

"The most committed of the acting came from the antagonistic doctors....Curtis Bannister was urgent, disturbed, almost frantic as Baglioni. Hernandez' smooth, rich baritone contrasting against the brightness and flexibility of Bannister's tenor."

Bachtrack

BREATHING FREE | HEARTBEAT OPERA - VISUAL ALBUM OF SONGS BY BLACK COMPOSERS & "FIDELIO"

"Bannister's heart-rending 'Gott! Welch dunkel hier!'...his tenor, alternately firm and hushed, conveying resolve and vulnerability."

Opera News

" 'Lonely Dark and Lovely One' is infinitely moving as sung by Curtis Bannister...Bannister evokes the loneliness of the lyrics with his expressive face and oh so sweet voice.

L.A. Dance Chronicle

THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS | SKYLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE - MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

"As Theseus, a sympathetic ruler who allows Oedipus to rest in his village, Curtis Bannister is exceptional. His gentle but agile singing voice and considerable acting skills make his message the most clear."

OnMilwaukee

THE PAJAMA GAME | THEATRE AT THE CENTER - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

"If you don't go see The Pajama Game at The Theatre at the Center for any other reason, go to hear the booming tenor voice of the hunky lead, Curtis Bannister."

Chicago Theatre & Arts

"Newcomer Curtis Bannister brings an honest, truly likable, earnest quality to his portrayal of Sid, but it's his gorgeous voice that impressed the opening night audience and all but stopped the show. His renditions of 'Hey There' and 'A New Town Is A Blue Town' dazzle and delight. There's no doubt that Chicago audiences will be clamoring to see and hear more from this accomplished performer in the near future".

Chicago Theatre Review

"Bannister's theatrical, operatic voice is smooth, polished and exceptional; which sets the tone for excitement for the audience."

Chicago Now

"Bannister's voice, which is full and rich, is a highlight in the show. TV fans may recognize Bannister from his role in the television show 'Chicago Fire'."

Chicago Tribune

"As Prince Ragotski, Curtis Bannister's gorgeous tenor makes you almost forget that his character is a sinister sex trader."

ConcertoNet.com

PORGY & BESS | UTAH FESTIVAL OPERA & MUSICAL THEATRE – LOGAN, UT

"Building on his 2013 triumph as Otello, the gifted Curtis Bannister is back as the drug dealer Sportin' Life. Bannister's strikingly sensuous body language throughout this production is as seductive as his voice."

The Herald Journal

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD | STAGE 773 - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

"Radiating with slowly simmering energy, Curtis Bannister proves his enviable control several times over."

TimeOut Chicago Magazine

"Curtis Bannister seizes his crown in 'King of the World' lending his operatic voice to the swelling tides and crushing lows of a man behind bars."

Chicago Theatre Review

OTELLO | UTAH FESTIVAL OPERA – LOGAN, UTAH

"Curtis Bannister, the 28-year-old tenor, transformed into a riveting portrayal with dramatic inflection and compelling energy. Vocally, Bannister thrived...what could have been a theatrical disaster turned into a dramatic triumph."

Salt Lake Tribune

"Curtis Bannister jumped from the opera's ensemble to replace the ailing scheduled leading man, bringing a thrilling tenor voice and a towering stage presence to the role of the Lion of Venice."

The Herald Journal

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' | OLNEY THEATRE CENTER / THE NATIONAL PLAYERS TOUR

"... the athletic Mr. Bannister performs a naughtily insinuating, and impressive, solo about the joys of weed in 'The Viper's Drag.'"

The Washington Times

"Curtis Bannister was impressive with his song delivery but wowed even more with his "bojangles" contortionist dancing."

Washington All Arts Review

Barber	Vanessa	Anatol*
Bellini	I Capuleti e I Montecchi Norma	Tebaldo Pollione*
Berlioz	La damnation de Faust	Faust
Bernstein	Candide Mass	Candide, Cacambo*, Ragotski* Celebrant*
Bizet	Carmen	Don Jose*
Donizetti	Anna Bolena La Favorita Lurcrezia Borgia Lucia di Lammermoor Rita (fr./itl.) Roberto Devereux	Lord Percy Fernando Gennaro Edgardo, Arturo* Peppe*/Beppe* Roberto
Floyd	Susannah	Sam Polk
Gershwin	Porgy & Bess	Sportin' Life*
Gounod	Faust Romèò et Juliette	Faust* Romèò*
Massenet	Manon	des Grieux
Mozart	Idomeneo La Clemenza di Tito	Idomeneo Tito
Puccini	Madama Butterfly La Rondine	Lt. Pinkerton* Ruggero
Strauss	Der Rosenkavalier	Italian Singer
Tchaikovsky	Yevgenji Onegin Iolanta	Lenski Vaudemont
Verdi	Luisa Miller La Traviata Macbeth Nabucco Otello Rigoletto Simon Boccanegra	Rodolfo Alfredo* Macduff Ismaele Otello* Il Duca* Gabriele Adorno
Wagner	Der fliegende Höllander	Steuermann*

Bach	Christmas Oratorio* Passion of St. Matthew*
Beethoven	Mass in C* 9 th Symphony Missa Solemnis*
Bernstein	Mass*
Britten	Canticle V* War Requiem*
Gounod	St. Cecilia Mass*
Haydn	The Creation* Lord Nelson Mass* St. Teresa Mass Mass in B-minor* St. Nicholas Mass Mass in G-Major*
Handel	Judas Maccabeus Messiah* Samson*
Mahler	Das Lied von der Erde
Mendelssohn	Elijah*
Mozart	Mass in C Coronation Mass* Grand Mass in C-minor Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* Missa brevis in B-flat* Missa brevis in F* Requiem*
Rossini	Missa Solennes Stabat Mater*
Saint-Saëns	Christmas Oratorio*
Schubert	Mass No. 2 G-Major*
Tippet	A Child of Our Time*
Vaughan Williams	Four Hymns* Mass in G Minor Five Mystical Songs On Wenlock Edge*
Verdi	Requiem*

* | Performed roles/works