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OMAR NAJMI

Tenor / Composer



Boston-based tenor Omar Najmi splits his time between composition and performance, maintaining a busy schedule as an operatic tenor. Praised as "a world-class voice in every respect," Najmi recently debuted in the title role of Joseph Summer's adaptation of *Hamlet* with Bulgaria's State Opera Rousse. Recent and upcoming engagements Ruggiero in *La Rondine* with Opera on the James, *Adoration* with Beth Morrison Projects and Mozart's *Requiem* with the Tulsa Symphony. Other credits include Rodolfo in *La Bohème* with Opera Steamboat, Astolfo in *Furiosus* with Mercury Opera, Shakur in *Thumbprint* with Portland Opera, Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* with Boston Lyric Opera, Spearmint

Lodge in the world-premiere of *The Artwork of the Future* with Fresh-Squeezed Opera, Alfredo in *La Traviata* with MassOpera, Gastone in *La Traviata* with Boston Youth Symphony Orchestras, tenor soloist in *St John Passion* and *Christmas Oratorio* with Emmanuel Music, Tito in *La Clemenza di Tito* with Opera Steamboat, Bilal in *This Is Not That Dawn* with Catalyst New Music and Alessandro in *Il re Pastore* with Orpheus PDX.

Najmi enjoys a long-standing relationship with Boston Lyric Opera where he has performed in over 15 productions. He also served as their first Emerging Composer in the 2020/2021 season. Other credits include roles with Opera Colorado, Chautauqua Opera, Annapolis Opera, Opera Saratoga, Opera Maine, Opera Fayetteville, Opera NEO, Opera North, Odyssey Opera, American Lyric Theater, and more.

Omar Najmi made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2018 as the tenor soloist in Mark Hayes' *Gloria*. He has since returned as the soloist in Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living*, and as a soloist in Talents of the World Inc.'s *Caruso Tribute Concert*. He has toured in concert with Video Games Live, including an appearance with the Colorado Symphony at the Red Rocks Amphitheater. Najmi has been the recipient of the Harold Norblom Award from Opera Colorado, the Stephen Shrestinian Award from Boston Lyric Opera, 2nd prize from the Wilkinson Young Singers Fund, Lorraine Hunt Lieberon Fellowship from Emmanuel Music, 2nd place nationally in the Handel Aria

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Competition, and was a regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions.

Najmi began his composition career with the production of his first opera, ***En la ardiente oscuridad***, in 2019. After a run of sold-out performances, he was invited to serve as the first ever Emerging Composer in residence with Boston Lyric Opera, where he worked with Boston Youth Poet Laureate Alondra Bobadilla in the creation of the song cycle ***my name is Alondra***. The piece received its live premiere on BLO's Street Stage in 2021.

In 2022, his motet ***The Last Invocation*** was premiered by Emmanuel Music. His recently commissioned song cycle ***More Than Our Own Caves*** just received its premiere with Juventas New Music Ensemble. He is currently working on ***Jo dooba so paar*** - a short opera exploring the intersection of Queer and Muslim identity - which will premiere as part of White Snake Projects' Let's Celebrate initiative. His opera-in-progress ***The Fermi Paradox*** is currently a semi-finalist with Opera Theatre of St. Louis' New Works Collective.

In 2022, Najmi and his husband Brendon Shapiro co-founded Catalyst New Music - an organization dedicated to fostering, developing, and producing new works. Catalyst's first project - presented with the support of The Boston Foundation's Live Arts Boston grant - was a concert performance of Najmi's new opera ***This Is Not That Dawn***, a drama set during and after the Partition of India.