

# INSIGNIA

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## ARTISTS

### JONATHAN HAYS

*Baritone*

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American baritone **Jonathan Hays** performs modern and standard operatic and concert repertoire both in the US and internationally. His singing has been called “strong, lucid, direct and bang on the note” (The New York Times).

During the 2025-2026 season, Mr. Hays will be heard as Actor #7 in ***All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*** at Opera Steamboat and Schaunard in ***La bohème*** at El Paso Opera. This season, Mr. Hays performed the roles of Sam in ***Trouble in Tahiti*** and F. Scott Fitzgerald in ***The Ghosts of Gatsby*** at Mobile Opera, reprised King Melchior in Central City Opera’s annual production of ***Amahl and the Night Visitors*** and sang selected arias and duets in ***Italian Opera in Concert*** with El Paso Opera and El Paso Symphony Orchestra. In 2023-2024, he anchored Central City Opera’s summer season as Fred Graham/Petruchio in ***Kiss Me, Kate!***, sang Belcore

in ***L’Elisir d’Amore*** at Anchorage Opera, performed Rodgers and Hammerstein hits in the Colorado Springs Philharmonic’s production of ***Some Enchanted Evening***, and debuted at Tri-Cities Opera as Don Bartolo in ***Le Nozze di Figaro***.

Over the past several seasons, Mr. Hays portrayed Signor Nacarelli in Central City Opera’s production of ***The Light in the Piazza***, debuted with Piedmont Opera as Giorgio Talbot in ***Maria Stuarda***, returned to Syracuse Opera as Dr. Pangloss in ***Candide***, sang Robert Schumann’s ***Dichterliebe*** with pianist Stuart Malina at Market Square Concerts in Harrisburg, PA, and performed the monodrama ***Truth and Reconciliation*** (Mel Marvin/Jonathan Levi) with American Opera Projects at Opera America. His recording of Robert Pound’s song cycle ***Orbit of the Soul*** about the imprisonment of Oscar Wilde was released by Roven Records and Naxos USA in October of 2018. Colin Clarke of Fanfare Magazine wrote of the recording: “*The present performance with baritone seems to hold a particular pathos... due to Jonathan Hays’s superb interpretation. Technical aspects such as diction and pitching are so superbly managed that one’s attention is fully focused on Pound’s narrative. This is a positively revelatory release*” (Mar/Apr 2019).

Other recent credits include Donald in ***Billy Budd*** with Central City Opera, Sir Joseph Porter in ***HMS Pinafore*** and Maximilian in ***Candide*** with Anchorage Opera, Denis Krude in ***Crude Capital*** with Beth Morrison Projects, Jonathan Jeremiah Peachum in ***Threepenny Opera*** at Syracuse Opera, the Narrator in the world premiere of ***My Friend's Story*** at the International Festival of Arts and Ideas, and the protagonist in the monodrama ***An die fernen Geliebten*** at

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National Sawdust. He has performed with pianist/composer Jeremy Gill at the Museo Chiossione in Genoa, Italy with the Bogliasco Foundation and Associazione Culturale Pasquale Anfossi, as the baritone soloist in Gabriel Fauré's **Requiem in D minor** with the Harrisburg Symphony, and with pianist David Friend at the Hartt School on the James Sellars Memorial Concert.

Career Highlights include the role of Shadow Grendel in the world premiere of **Grendel** in a co-production with Los Angeles Opera and the Lincoln Center Festival, Achilla in **Giulio Cesare** with Washington National Opera, Belcore in **L'Elisir d'Amore** with Opera de la Colombia, and the title role of Isaiah Berlin in **Guest from the Future** at the Summerscape Festival. Hays has been hailed by Opera Magazine for his "commanding authority" and "sheer vocal excellence" in the Mozart repertoire. He has sung **Don Giovanni** with Cape Town Opera, Bel Canto at Caramoor, Syracuse Opera, and Chattanooga Opera; Count Almaviva in **Le nozze di Figaro** with Greensboro Opera, Cape Town Opera, Bel Canto at Caramoor, Opera Roanoke, and the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra; Papageno in **Die Zauberflöte** with Portland Opera, Central City Opera, and Connecticut Opera; and Guglielmo in **Così fan tutte** with Bel Canto at Caramoor, Eugene Opera, and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Concert credits include the Orchestra of St. Luke's, American Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony, Mostly Mozart Festival, Colorado Symphony, Boston Musica Viva, Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Alabama Symphony, New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, among many others. His recording of Jeremy Gill's **Helian** for Albany Records ranked fourth on Philadelphia City Paper's list of Top 10 Classical Albums of 2011. Peter Burwasser of Fanfare Magazine wrote of the disc: "*Jonathan Hays conveys the words, not just the music, with intelligence and careful diction, not to mention a splendidly lush baritone.*" Also in 2011, he won the Big Easy Foundation's award for Best Performance of New Classical Music for his recital **An Unquiet Spirit** with soprano JeAnne Moniz Marcus. His performance of Henry Cowell's **Atlantis** with the American Symphony Orchestra is available on iTunes and emusic.com.

Jonathan Hays holds opera degrees from the Yale School of Music (M.M. in Opera Performance) and the Hartt School (B.M. in Opera Performance). He is on the Voice Faculty of UCCS, and has served on the faculties of The Hartt School, Colorado College, Dickinson College, Susquehanna University and Brooklyn College and Conservatory of Music.