

RENÉ BARBERA

tenor



media kit

Biography

Tenor René Barbera has quickly established himself as one of today's most exciting young vocal artists. The first-ever sole recipient of all three awards of the Operalia Competition in 2011 and winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition in 2008, René has earned critical praise and audience acclaim for his effortless singing, his “old-fashioned warmth” (*Opera News*), and his expressive musicality.

This season, René will make a number of house debuts: with the Deutsche Oper Berlin as Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*; at Teatro alla Scala Milan as Ernesto in *Don Pasquale* with conductor Riccardo Chailly; at Teatro Verdi Trieste as Lindoro in *L'Italiana in Algeri*; at the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia as Tito in *La clemenza di Tito*; and for the Bayerische Staatsoper Munich as Ramiro in *La cenerentola*. Other upcoming engagements include *I puritani* at the Staatstheater Stuttgart and a return to the Opera National de Paris as Count Almaviva in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.

Recent performance highlights include his Metropolitan Opera debut as Lindoro; his first Alfredo in *La traviata* in Palermo, Italy; Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola*, Almaviva, and Iopas in *Les Troyens* in San Francisco; Don Ramiro in debuts with the Seattle Opera and Los Angeles Opera; Ernesto with the Lyric Opera of Chicago; Tonio in *La fille du régiment* with Greensboro Opera; Almaviva with Los Angeles Opera; Giannetto in *La gazza ladra* and Narciso in *Il turco in Italia* at the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro; Rodrigo in Rossini's *La donna del lago* in his Santa Fe Opera debut; and the Italian Tenor in *Der Rosenkavalier* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago.

René is a graduate of Lyric Opera of Chicago's Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program, and Florida Grand Opera's Young Artist Program.

A Texas native, René avidly follows the San Antonio Spurs and the Dallas Cowboys from his home in Berlin. At ease in both Italian and Spanish, he has a special affinity for the language, people, and cuisine of Italy. He is an enthusiast of all things “tech,” from gaming to gadgets, and continually seeks out the latest innovations in home automation and video games. René is also an avid motorcycle rider and collector of Robert Graham designer clothing.

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Acclaim

“As Tonio, Marie’s peasant lover, the charming tenor René Barbera hit his notorious nine high C’s and considerably more, securely and seemingly effortlessly.” *The New York Times*

“There was no mistaking the sound of a star being born when tenor René Barbera finished his first aria.” – *Observer*

“The cast’s standout was René Barbera, a sweet, ardent, clarion-voiced Nemorino, and the afternoon’s musical highlight, naturally enough, was “Una furtiva lagrima” ... when Barbera came to the foot of the stage, arms spread wide, and sang of his passion, music and meaning became one. The ovation that followed was not only a recognition of Barbera’s superb rendition but a celebration of Nemorino’s victory in love.” – *Opera News*

“René Barbera found the character’s inner appeal, with an assured, warm voice, lusty high Cs, and a stage presence evoking familiar tenor tropes (the solid body, the dark beard, the sense of humor).” – *The Washington Post*

“Barbera flung robust, clarion tones to the farthest reaches of the theater, always singing with lyrical refinement.” – *Chicago Tribune*

“Barbera is a revelation” – *Broadway World*

“I will not forget his voice in my life. In Barbera, an incredible number of qualities are currently being combined: musicality, volume, interpretation, beauty, warmth, freshness, freedom and intonation. And that includes all nine high C’s...pure and precise.” – *Place de l’Opera*

“René Barbera, also in his first Met appearance, brought a light, urbane tenor to the role of Lindoro” – *The New York Times*

“What to say of René Barbera as Nemorino, except that he may arguably be the most effortlessly endearing, lovably bumbling, beguilingly boyish Nemorino since the great Pavarotti. Mr. Barbera has that same charisma, that star power, that indefinable magnetism that cannot be manufactured. Mr. Barbera presented a flawless, wondrous Una furtive lagrima that had us so bewitched we scarcely dared breathe, lest any sound break the honeyed perfection. René Barbera is now the Nemorino by which I will judge future interpreters. – *Opera Today*

“Barbera — who from certain angles is a ringer for the young Caruso — has a notably big and vibrant lyric tenor ... floating a lovely account of Ernesto’s canzonetta (com’e gentil) and blending nicely with Petersen in the duet Tornami a dir.” – *Chicago Classical Review*

“The evening’s most thrilling moments were delivered in Italian in the company debut of fast-rising, Texas-born bel canto tenor René Barbera, whose charm and effortless string of high Cs for Luciano Pavarotti’s breakthrough number “Ah! mes amis” from “The Daughter of the Regiment” elicited roars of excitement.” – *San Diego Union Tribune*

Photos



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Videos



Rigoletto, "[La donna è mobile](#)"



La traviata, "[Dei miei bollenti spiriti ... O mio rimorso](#)"



La Fille du Régiment, "[Pour mon âme, quel destin!](#)"

More Information

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