

Austin Kness

Inducted into the *Hall of Fame* in 2013

Austin Kness, Graduate of George Washington H.S. in 1998. Activities and achievements while at WHS: Momentum, Concert Choir, Madrigal Choir, Slice of Jazz, Vivace, Iowa All State Choir, Varsity Football Captain, Varsity Track & Field, Soccer, Basketball, several roles in musicals and straight theater, Honor Roll, and a member of the Homecoming Court. Upon WHS Graduation he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Music from University of Northern Iowa 2002, Merola Opera Program 2008, Adler Fellowship 2009, 2010, Master's in Music in Vocal Performance from Indiana University 2011.

Austin Kness, baritone, most recently made his New York City Lincoln Center debut as The Master's Mate and Sergio (cover) in *La Nave* (Teatro Grattacielo). Other recent opera stage debuts: Danilo in *Merry Widow* (Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre), Schaunard in *La Boheme* (Opera Idaho), Commissioner, Policeman, and Orphée (cover) in Phillip Glass' *Orphée* (Opera Parallèle), Don Apostolo Gazella in *Lucrezia*, Zuniga in *Carmen for Families*, and Jesus of Nazareth in *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene Workshop* all with San Francisco Opera.

In concert, Kness has made his solo debuts in Durufle's *Requiem* at Carnegie Hall (Manhattan Choral Project), *Missa Solemnis* (Berkeley Cantare Chorale), *Distant Worlds: Music from Final Fantasy* (San Francisco Symphony), and *Carmina Burana* (Vallejo Symphony).

In recital, Kness has sung with world renowned pianist, Steven Blier, in *Amores Nuevos*, Spanish songs and arias, *Spanisches Liederbuch* by Hugo Wolf with soprano, Susannah Biller, and pianist, Allen Perriello (Schwabacher Debut Recital), and at Salon at the Rex with tenor, Alek Shrader, and pianist, John Parr.

In his two years with San Francisco Opera as an Adler Fellow, Kness' main stage work was comprised of 13 roles in 11 productions including: Prince Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*, Wagner in *Faust*, Bruhlmann and Albert (cover) in *Werther*, Bello in *Fanciulla del West*, Marco in *Gianni Schicchi*, Sciarrone in *Tosca*, and Marquis d'Obigny in *La Traviata*. He also sang lead roles in workshops of three SFO premieres as Starbuck in *Moby Dick*, Rick Rescorla in *Heart of a Soldier*, and Jesus of Nazareth in *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*. Kness is an alumnus of the Merola Opera Program where he performed the title role of Don Giovanni. Mr. Kness obtained his Master's degree from the prestigious Indiana University Jacobs School of Music with roles including: Eddie Carbone in *A View from the Bridge*, Don Giovanni in *Don Giovanni*, Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and Escamillo in *Carmen*.

