

## **THOMAS BOOTH • Tenor**

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

6161 N. Hamilton • Chicago, IL 60659-4220 • 773-338-4182

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### **BIOGRAPHY**

Internationally acclaimed tenor **Thomas Booth** has performed widely in opera and concert around the United States and throughout Europe and other parts of the World. His principal vocal training was at the **Juilliard School** in New York with Russian Bass **Alexander Kipnis** and also privately with Metropolitan Opera tenors **James King** and John Alexander. He holds his Masters in Voice and Opera Performance from Northwestern International University in Denmark and his Bachelors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mr. Booth sang with the **Metropolitan Opera** in Principal and Leading Roles for nine seasons and sang for five seasons with the **Lyric Opera of Chicago** and also with the **New York City Opera**. He has performed across the United States in most every state and in New Orleans, Miami, Memphis, Seattle, Dallas, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Portland (Maine and Oregon), Boston, San Diego, Las Vegas, Charlotte, Disney's Epcot Center, **The Spoleto Festival USA** and many other cities. In Europe and Internationally Mr. Booth has sung in **Rome, London, Nice** on the **French Riviera**, Nantes and Montpellier, **France**, in **Belgium, Ireland, Warsaw, Stockholm, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Mexico City**, Monterrey, **Montreal**, the **Spanish Canary Islands, Frankfurt**, Aachen, Saarbrücken, **Essen**, Bielefeld and other German cities, in **Pretoria South Africa and Tokyo**. He has sung the **World Premier** of George Lloyd's *The Vigil of Venus* at **London's Royal Festival Hall**, The American Premier of **John Cage's EUROPERA** in New York the **Israeli Premier** of Naom Sherif's *The Sephardic Passion* in **Tel Aviv**.

Mr. Booth has been heard numerous times on **National Public Radio** via performances from the Met, Lyric Opera and broadcasts of his recordings of John Socman and *The Vigil of Venus* and *Boris Godunov*. He has appeared on **PBS** in Illinois in a **US premier** of **Verdi's Messa Solenne**. He has also appeared **onstage** with each of the **Three Tenors**.

His favorite operas to perform are **Otello, Turandot, Tosca, Aida, Pagliacci and Carmen**. Preferred symphonic works include the **Beethoven 9th Symphony**, the **Verdi Requiem**, the Mahler 8th Symphony, **Handel's Messiah** and Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*.

**Thomas Booth** has sung concerts with many of the great orchestras including the **Royal Philharmonic in Stockholm**, the National Symphony at **The Kennedy Center**, the Dallas Symphony, the Warsaw Philharmonic, **The Philharmonia Orchestra of London**, the **Montreal Symphony**, the Welsh National Opera Orchestra in Concert, the **Jerusalem Symphony**, the **Israeli Symphony**, the New World Symphony, the **Mantovani Orchestra**, the Memphis Symphony, the Akron Symphony, the Fort Wayne Symphony, the Evanston Symphony, the Hartford Symphony, the Portland Symphony, the Knox-Galesburg Symphony, the Dubuque Symphony, the Lawrence Symphony and many others. Among the major conductors leading his many performances have been Maestros **James Levine**, James Conlon, **Michael Tilson Thomas**, John Nelson, Donald Runnicles, Kazimierz Kord, **Anton Guadagno**, Albert Rosen, **Riccardo Chailly**, **Mstislav Rostropovitch**, Bruno Bartoletti, **Jesus Lopez-Cobos**, Martin Fischer-Dieskau, Friedrich Haider, **Paul Ethuin**, Franz-Paul Decker and **Raymond Leppard**.

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He has worked with Producers and Directors such as Moshe Leiser and Patrice Caurier, Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, Otto Schenck John Dexter and Nathaniel Merrill, and Dieter Bulter-Marel .

His **recordings** include The Vigil of Venus by George Lloyd on Albany UK Disques, and also John Socman by the same composer again on Albany. He has **recorded Boris Godunov** with the National Symphony for **Erato Disques**, the Verdi Requiem with the Lawrence Symphony and Chorus and several of his recent recital concerts. He has recently recorded the vocal music from his one person musical tribute play, **Remembering Mario Lanza**, which has been performed around the USA in Utah, Michigan, and Illinois, and with several upcoming performances in Florida in 2010 and for Western Illinois University as well.

Thomas Booth has added performing concerts and recitals and teaching and various business interests to his schedule of opera appearances. He has been on the Faculty of **Illinois Wesleyan University** and has taught at **Monmouth College**, Knox College, Carl Sandburg College and The Company Fine Arts Academy. He is also **Principal Organist** for Grace United Methodist Church in Pekin, Illinois and for the **Scottish Rite Cathedral** in Peoria. Mr. Booth's teaching activities have included both Vocal and Organ Instruction and Opera preparation for his students. He received his organ education at the University of North Carolina under Rudolph Kramer and in Master classes with famed organist E. Power Biggs.

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## RESUME

### OPERA ROLES PERFORMED

Beethoven	<b>FIDELIO</b>	<i>Florestan</i>	Opera de Nice, France
Bellini	<b>NORMA</b>	<i>Pollione</i>	Boston Concert Opera
Berlioz	<b>BENVENUTO CELLINI</b>	<i>Cellini</i>	*Rome Opera (Italy)
	<b>DAMNATION DE FAUST</b>	<i>Faust</i>	Opera de Nice, France
			Opera de Montpellier, France
			Opera de Wallonie, Belgium
			Stockholm Philharmonic
			Jerusalem Symphony
Bizet	<b>CARMEN</b>	<i>Don Jose</i>	Mid-Michigan Opera
			Key West Opera, Florida
			Brevard Music Festival
Dvorak	<b>RUSALKA</b>	<i>Prince</i>	Spoletto Festival, USA
Lehar	<b>TSAREVITCH</b>	<i>Tsarevitch</i>	Transvaal Opera, Pretoria
			Republic of South Africa
Leoncavallo	<b>PAGLIACCI</b>	<i>Canio</i>	Opera de Tenerife
			Spanish Canary Islands
Lloyd	<b>JOHN SOCMAN</b>	<i>Richard</i>	Philharmonia Orchestra
			London - Recording
Mascagni	<b>CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA</b>	<i>Turiddu</i>	Opera Monterrey
			Mexico
	<b>IL PICCOLO MARAT</b>	<i>Marat</i>	Wexford Festival Opera
			Wexford, Ireland
Mussorgsky	<b>BORIS GODUNOV</b>	<i>Prince</i>	Metropolitan Opera
		<i>Shuisky</i>	
		<i>Boyar and</i>	San Diego Opera
		<i>Kruschov</i>	National Symphony
	<b>KHOVANSCHINA</b>	<i>Prince Golitsyn</i>	Kennedy Center
		<i>Stresniev</i>	Metropolitan Opera
		<i>Mario Cavaradossi</i>	Metropolitan Opera
Puccini	<b>TOSCA</b>		Nevada Opera
			Dubuque Symphony
	<b>TURANDOT</b>	<i>Prince Calaf</i>	New York City Opera
			Opera de Tenerife
			Austin Lyric Opera
			Mobile Opera
			*Lyric Opera of Chicago
Strauss	<b>ARIADNE AUF NAXOS</b>	<i>Bacchus</i>	Opera de Nantes, France
	<b>SALOME</b>	<i>Narroboth</i>	New Orleans Opera
		<i>1<sup>st</sup> Jew</i>	Metropolitan Opera
Verdi	<b>AIDA</b>	<i>Radames</i>	Brevard Music Festival
			Bob Jones University
	<b>OTELLO</b>	<i>Otello</i>	Knoxville Opera
Wagner	<b>DER FLIEGENDE</b>	<i>Erik</i>	New Orleans Opera
	<b>HOLLAENDER</b>	<i>Steuermann</i>	Metropolitan Opera
			Opera de Montpellier

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<b>PARSIFAL</b>	<i>Parsifal</i>	*Metropolitan Opera
	<i>Parsifal</i>	*Lyric Opera Chicago
<b>DAS RHEINGOLD</b>	<i>Froh</i>	*Metropolitan Opera
<b>TRISTAN UND ISOLDE</b>	<i>Melot</i>	Netherlands Opera * <b>cover</b>

## CONCERT REPERTORY

Beethoven	<i>SYMPHONY NO. 9</i>	Dallas Symphony Akron Symphony Memphis Symphony New Haven Symphony New World Symphony Portland ME Symphony
Bellini	<i>NORMA</i>	Boston Concert Opera
Berlioz	<i>DAMNATION de FAUST</i>	Jerusalem Symphony Opera de Montpellier Royal Philharmonic Stockholm Liege Opera de Wallonie
Elgar	<i>DREAM OF GERONTIUS</i>	Oratorio Society of Boston
Handel	<i>MESSIAH</i>	Fort Wayne Philharmonic Oratorio Society of the Quad Cities (Iowa)
Lloyd	<i>VIGIL OF VENUS</i>	Welsh National Opera at Royal Festival Hall London, World Premier, Albany Records UK
Mahler	<i>SYMPHONY NO. 8</i>	Knoxville Symphony, TN
Puccini	<i>Act 1 Boheme, Act 2 Tosca</i> <i>Act 3 Butterfly</i>	Baltimore Concert Opera
Sheriff	<i>SEPHARDIC PASSION</i>	Israel Symphony (Israel Premier)
Verdi	<i>MESSA DA REQUIEM</i>	Warsaw Philharmonic, (Polish Television) Lawrence Orchestra and Chorus (WI) Knox-Galesburg Symphony (IL)

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### **REVIEWS**

Thomas Booth is endowed with a beautiful voice of considerable range and resonance. He is exceptionally musical and has a pleasing personality.

*Alexander Kipnis, The Juilliard School*

Thomas Booth possesses a beautiful voice with an added good measure of vitality.

Lorenzo Malfatti, *Opera School of Chicago*

Thomas Booth's Shuisky was insinuating and expertly sung.

*The New York Times* (Metropolitan Opera Performance, Boris Godunov)

Thomas Booth negotiated the treacherous role with more taste and accuracy than any tenor I have yet heard in the theater.

*Opera* (Damnation of Faust, Liege, Belgium)

U.S. tenor Thomas Booth invested the title role with charisma and sang strongly.

*Opera News* (Piccolo Marat, Wexford, Ireland)

Thomas Booth made a convincing Piccolo Marat singing the heavy role with untiring energy and warmth of tone.

*Opera* (Piccolo Marat)

Tenor Thomas Booth was Prince Calaf. He is handsome and moves well, his voice is attractive and he can handle the notes.

*New York Daily News* (Turandot, New York City Opera)

It is a relief to report with enthusiasm that American tenor Thomas Booth is something of a find. He sings with both brio or tenderness as the score demands...he has a fine even range encompassing the brilliancy of volume of a heldentenor and the poetic delicacy of the lyric tenor. He is magnificently easy to listen to.

*The Star Tonight* (Lehar's Tsarevitch, Pretoria, South Africa)

The Roman proconsul, Pollione, was forcefully played by Thomas Booth

*Worcester Telegram* (Norma, Boston Concert Opera)

Thomas Booth gave life to the Steersman with subtleties.

*Opera International* (Flying Dutchman, Montpellier, France)

Thomas Booth's stentorian tones and valid acting did much to overcome the part's limitations.

*Morning Advocate* (Erik, Flying Dutchman, New Orleans)

Thomas Booth has the needed ringing tenor voice for the Prince, as well as the musical sensitivity.

*Thor Eckert, Christian Science Monitor*

(USA Premier of Rusalka, Spoleto Festival, Charleston)

Thomas Booth achieved a high point of the evening with an adamantly dramatic rendition of his solo.

*Fort Worth Star Telegram* (Beethoven Ninth Symphony, Dallas)

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(Continued)

Thomas Booth was an exciting discovery. Blessed with a beautiful voice, he sang with good voice placement and instinctive musicianship.

*Oak Ridger* (Mahler 8th Symphony, Knoxville)

Mr. Booth was met with thundering applause throughout his appearance.

*Bellingham Times* (Mario Lanza Tribute with Mantovani Orchestra)

Mr. Booth truly took over the audience that gave him several standing ovations. His is the finest voice to visit Savannah in my lifetime.

*Chatham Artillery* (Sponsor of Lanza Tour concert in Savannah)

Everything with him is remarkably unified: the voice, strong and incisive; vocal command, almost irreproachable; the rhythmic control, absolute; the projection of the text, pronounced with clarity and intelligence...interpretations, comparable to the best where many details of expression retained one's attention...vocally interesting, and, especially, musical.

*La Presse, Montreal* (Recital, Montreal Canada)

The 79 minutes of music here demonstrates George Lloyd's impressive operatic skills....Thomas Booth's Richard is strong and confident.

*BBC Magazine* (Recording of John Socman, Albany UK Records)

Thomas Booth offered an Otello, misled and miscalculating, but never completely out of control until the murder. He was in excellent voice.

*Opera News* (Otello, Knoxville)

Tenor Thomas Booth possesses a glorious instrument and gives us a brilliant, vibrant and vital Cavaradossi.

*Telegraph Herald* (Tosca, Dubuque Iowa)

His no-nonsense straight-to-the-top Nessun Dorma topped the whole program.

*Milwaukee Journal Metro* (Concert, Milwaukee Under the Stars)

Mr. Booth is a very fine tenor with considerable performing skills and musical confidence.

*Richard J. Bjella, conductor* (Verdi Requiem, Lawrence University)

...a great tenor who has sung on the stages of some of the world's most prestigious opera houses.

*Tim Pahel, Music Coordinator Carl Sandburg College*

Thomas Booth has a great tenor voice equal to any opera singer or entertainer. His wide variety of songs and program pleased everyone.

*Rev. Gordon Jones* (Concert for Carl Sandburg College and Bushnell Presbyterian Church)

Tom Booth's excellence as an organist and tenor combined with his charming personality made for a most delightful afternoon...The audience was quite captivated and responsive.

*Rev William Myers* (Maple Leaf Community Concert Performance at Faith Church)

Mr. Booth's January 2002 appearance at the Maple Leaf Community Concert Series was a highlight of the season. His listeners were receptive and enthusiastic and continue to recall this memorable event with pleasure.

*Don Gibb, Past President MLCC* (Maple Leaf Community Concert)

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Tom Booth has found a special way to weave a balanced program of music through sharing his gifted tenor voice in singing a variety of songs from opera to gospel favorites. He shifts gears very smoothly through moving from tenor soloist to organist who plays the organ favorites with enthusiasm and grace.

*Gaylord Buss, Pastor* (Grace United Methodist Church Special Concert)

Thomas Booth's voice is thrilling....his performance of the captivating Nessun Dorma was one of the musical highlights of the evening.

*News and Review* (Mobile, AL)

The tenor role of the Piccolo Marat was gallantly sung by Thomas Booth. (Il Piccolo Marat)

*Sunday Telegraph* (London)

The predominantly American cast is first rate, especially Thomas Booth in the title role. (Il Piccolo Marat)

*Daily Telegraph*, London

“Acclaimed Tenor Thomas Booth *Breathes New Life* into Mario Lanza”

*Cedar City Review*, Utah

“*Superb Performance*” “Leon J. Beimer said he was amazed by tenor Thomas Booth’s ‘superb’ portrayal of the legendary movie tenor at Wells Theater at Monmouth College”

*The HawkEye*, Burlington Iowa

“...*excellent command* of the material and the audience.”

Dr. Bill Wallace, Theater Department, Monmouth College

### **Audience reaction to Remembering Mario Lanza**

“*absolutely Marvelous*” “*Bravo!*” “*enjoyed every minute*” “*absolutely superb*”  
“*a very special evening*” “*your interpretation of Mario Lanza was breathtaking*”

“*Breathtaking. It just lifted up the entire audience and was the best performance given here in years.*” *Edmund Frost, President CSA, Frankfort Michigan*