

RAYMOND FEENER • Baritone

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

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

BIOGRAPHY

A native of Bremen, Ohio, Raymond has performed throughout the United States, Holland, Austria, and Italy. Raymond made his professional stage debut in 1995 with the Columbus Light Opera as Giuseppe in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*. His international debut was with the Opera Theatre of Lucca in Lucca Italy in 1998 in the title role of Giuseppe Gazzaniga's version of Don Giovanni. Since that time he has made a home in the operatic, oratorio, concert and art song repertoire known for his beautiful lyric voice and outstanding acting ability.

An example of his operatic repertoire ranges from Figaro in Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and Marcello in Puccini's *Bohème* to the Man with a Shoe Sample Kit in Argento's *Postcard from Morocco*, Silvio in Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*, and Strophon in G & S's *Iolanthe*.

In 2000 Raymond was accepted into the Sarasota Opera Studio Artist Program where he sang the role of Fiorello in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and covered the role of Zurga in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*. That same year, Raymond was also accepted into the George Opera Festival Apprentice Program where he had the opportunity to work with Maestro Daniel Beckwith, stage director Mark Verzatt, and Metropolitan Opera coach Craig Ruttenburg, as well as perform several operatic scenes with apprentice artists, cover the role of Guglielmo in *Così fan Tutti*, and perform the role of Prince Yamadori in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*.

His solo, concert, and recital work has taken him across the country to Alabama, Florida, Texas, Georgia, South Dakota, Missouri, Ohio, Hawaii, and The Netherlands where he performed for the 40th Anniversary of N.A.T.O. in Brunssum, Holland. His lecture recital entitled, *The Evolution of Everyman*, is his own multi-media semi-staged production of Frank Martin's work, *Sechs Monologue aus Jedermann*, using his own English translation as well as text from Hugo von Hofmannsthal's *Jedermann*. He has recently been seen performing the baritone solos for the Brahms' *Ein deutsches Requiem* at UMKC in the direction of Dr. Joseph Flummerfelt.

From 2001 to 2005 Raymond served as Assistant Professor of Voice at Ohio University where he taught applied voice and directed the 80 voice male ensemble, The Singing Men of Ohio. The ensemble toured throughout the United States and was invited to perform for the 2002 MTNA National Conference Opening Session in Cincinnati, Ohio and the Ohio Music Education Association Professional Conference in Columbus Ohio.

In 2002 Raymond served on faculty at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria where he was a stage director for the AIMS Festival. In 2003 Dr. Feener was selected as an intern for the prestigious NATS Internship Program which was held in Fredonia, New York, where he had the opportunity to work with several Master Teachers including Jerrold P. Nicosia. Since 2005 Dr. Feener has served on the voice faculty at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music where he is currently an Associate Professor of Voice. Raymond has served on the voice faculty of the Bay View Summer Music Festival in Bay View Michigan for the past two years where he taught voice, staged opera scenes, and performed as a faculty baritone soloist.

Raymond received his Bachelor's degree in Choral Education and Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from Ohio University. During that time Dr. Feener placed first in the Advanced Men Category in 1996 at the State and Regional NATS Competition as well as a winner of the 1996 NATSAA State Competition. He earned his doctoral degree from the Florida State University School of Music in Vocal Performance/Opera Emphasis. While attending FSU, he was awarded the Gallagher Memorial Award for outstanding performance and academic achievement as well as reaching the finals of the McAllister Award Competition.

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He has had the opportunity to work with such vocal coaches as, Lorenzo Malfatti, Douglas Fisher, Timothy Hoeckma Natalia Rivera, as well as in Master Classes with Stanford Olsen, Phyllis Curtin, and Marilyn Horne.

Dr. Feener has had several students place at the local and state level for the National Association of Teachers of Singing Auditions. He has also had students place at the District and Regional levels for the Metropolitan Opera Auditions.

Dr. Feener has recently been seen in performances of the Faure Requiem with the University of Missouri in Columbia, performing the Bass Solos in Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Saint Joseph Symphony, as well as in Puccini's opera *La Boheme* with the Springfield Regional Opera in Springfield, Missouri. He will be returning to the Springfield Regional Opera in the Spring of 2012 to perform the role of Escamillo in Bizet's *Carmen*..

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RESUME

OPERATIC PERFORMANCES:

LA BOHÈME	Marcello	Springfield Regional Opera (MO)
I PAGLIACCI	Silvio	Kansas Concert Opera
AM AHL & THE NIGHT VISITORS	Melchior	The Messiah Project (Springfield, MO)
THE EVERLASTING UNIVERSE	Lord Byron	Kansas City Civic Opera
LA BOHEME (Concert Version)	Benoit/Alcindoro	Missouri Symphony Orchestra
LA TRAVIATA	Baron Duphole	Wichita Grand Opera (Kansas)
THE TWIST OF TREASON	Benedict Arnold	Waldron Arts Center (Indiana)
TURANDOT	Ping	The Lancaster Festival (Ohio)
DON PASQUALE	Malatesta	Dorian Opera (Iowa)
COSI FAN TUTTE	Guglielmo	Lake George Opera / (cover), Florida State Opera
POSTCARD FROM MOROCCO	Man w/ Shoe Sample Kit	Florida State Opera
MADAME BUTTERFLY	Yamadori	Lake George Opera
IL MATRIMONIO SEGRETO	Count Robinson	Lake George Opera (cover)
IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA	Fiorello	Sarasota Opera (Florida)
LES PECHEURS DE PERLES	Zurga	Sarasota Opera (cover)
IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA	Figaro	Florida State Opera
DON GIOVANNI (Gazzaniga Version)	Don Giovanni	Opera Theater of Lucca (Italy)

MUSICAL THEATER/OPERA PERFORMANCES:

IOLANTHE	Strephon	Opera Columbus (Ohio)
THE GONDOLIERS	Giuseppe	Opera Columbus
ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD	Jupiter	Florida State Opera
H.M.S. PINAFORE	Captain Corcoran	Florida State Opera
A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING	Martin	Theatre Lancaster (Ohio)
“EVENING OF CLASSIC BROADWAY”	Featured Artist	Sarasota Opera
“OPERA! OPERA!”	Featured Artist	Sarasota Opera
“A NIGHT IN OLD VIENNA”	Featured Artist	Ocean City Pops Orchestra (New Jersey)
MIKADO	Guest Artist	Logan (Ohio)

RECITAL PERFORMANCES:

Recital for 40 th Anniversary of N.A.T.O.	Featured Artist	Joint Forces Command Headquarters, The Netherlands
AIMS in Erzherzog Johann	Recitalist	Graz, Austria
Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra	Featured Artist	Historic Renaissance Theater (Ohio)
“Picnic with the Pops”	Featured Artist	Huntington Symphony Orchestra (West Virginia)
“The Evolution of Everyman”	Lecture-Recitalist / Featured Artist	Hawaii International Conference; U. of North Texas; University of Missouri- Kansas City; Ohio University; University of South Dakota; Macon State College.

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CONCERT REPERTOIRE:

Barber	DOVER BEACH
Beethoven	Symphony No. 9
Brahms	REQUIEM
Brahms	LIEBESLIEDER, Opus 52 (upcoming 4/08)
Durafle	REQUEM
Fauré	REQUIEM
Händel	MESSIAH
Schubert	MASS IN G
Schumann	SPANISCHES LIEDERSPIEL (upcoming 4/08)
Vaughn Williams	FANTASIA ON A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Vaughn Williams	FIVE MYSTICAL SONGS

CONCERT PERFORMANCES WITH:

St. Joseph Symphony (Missouri)
The Lancaster Chorale (Ohio)
Ohio University
Missouri Symphony
University of Missouri-Kansas City
Mansfield Youth Orchestra (Ohio)
Pickerington Youth Orchestra (Ohio)
Mid-American Nazarene University (Kansas)
Macon College (Georgia)

CONDUCTORS:

William Fred Scott	Douglas Fisher
Daniel Beckwith	David Briskin
Richard Carsey	William Scheible
William Boggs	Gary Sheldon
Victor DeRenzi	Kimo Furumoto
Kirk Trevor	

STAGE DIRECTORS:

William Florescu	Stephanie Sundine
Roger Stevens	Lincoln Clark
Mark Verzatt	Dale Morehouse
Michael McConnell	
Patrick Young	
William Gustafson	

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REVIEWS

“Raymond Feener as Strephon...simply outstanding in every way, vocally and in (his) natural yet convincing character portrayal.”

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH (Ohio)

Barbara Zook

“Raymond Feener as Fiorello...brought a bright baritone voice and an elegant figure to the part”

SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE (Florida)

Florence Fisher

“Raymond Feener (in his portrayal of Figaro)...gives us a young man on the rise in more ways than one.”

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (Florida)

Ralph Cook

“The baritone Raymond Feener charmed the dickens out of more of the women with “At Maxim’s” from “The Merry Widow.”

He...mesmerized everyone with a beautifully sung and danced “Merry Widow Waltz.” Applause was plentiful.”

“Raymond Feener pleased the members of the Ocean City’s German colony to no end.”

OCEAN CITY SENTINAL (New Jersey)

Ed Wismer