

## **CARL J. RATNER • Baritone**

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

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

---

### **BIOGRAPHY**

**Carl J. Ratner, Baritone**, was awarded a 2010-2011 Fulbright grant to perform in recital, give lectures and master classes, direct an American chamber opera, and research Russian art song at the St. Petersburg Conservatory in the Russian Federation. Upon his return, he will tour the United States with a recital of Russian and American songs, including a performance at the Chicago Cultural Center as part of “The Soviet Arts Experience,” a multi-event collaboration organized by the University of Chicago. In 2011 he also returns to the Bach Ensemble of Naples Florida for a mixed program of sacred music as well as two performances of *Messiah*.

Recent engagements include the role of Ping in Puccini’s *Turandot* with the Kalamazoo Symphony and Sharpless in the same composer’s *Madama Butterfly* with the Battle Creek Symphony, which he also directed. Other operatic roles include Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, John Proctor in *The Crucible*, Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and the title roles in Verdi’s *Falstaff* and Puccini’s *Gianni Schicchi*.

His concert work includes Bach’s *Magnificat* and Mass in A major with The Bach Ensemble of Naples, Vaughan Williams’s *Dona Nobis Pacem* and Copland’s *Old American Songs* with the Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale, and performances of the Fauré Requiem, Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, and David Gillingham’s *Lifesongs*. His recital programs, remarkable for their breadth and creativity, have included works ranging from Rameau’s *Thétis* to Bolcom’s Cabaret Songs. He has performed in 13 languages.

Ratner’s career also includes over two decades of experience as an opera director. He learned his craft assisting directors at major opera houses including Covent Garden (London), the Metropolitan Opera, Munich Opera, San Francisco Opera, English National Opera, New York City Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Santa Fe Opera, and the Spoleto Festival in Italy, where he worked with eminent composer Gian Carlo Menotti. From 1994 to 1999 served as Artistic Director of Chicago Opera Theater, Chicago’s second largest opera company. He previously held the same position with Chamber Opera Chicago from 1984 to 1993.

He currently serves as Director of Opera and Associate Professor of Voice for the School of Music at Western Michigan University, where he directs the annual opera production and teaches applied voice, opera workshop, vocal literature, and French and German diction. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in music history from the Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio and also participated in an internship in opera, dance, and drama production at The Juilliard School in New York City. He earned a Master of Arts in vocal pedagogy at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago and his Doctor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the School of Music at Northwestern University.

# CARL J. RATNER • Baritone

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

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

---

## RESUME

### Opera Roles

Marullo *Rigoletto*  
Frank *Die Fledermaus Gala*  
Papageno *The Magic Flute*  
John Proctor *The Crucible*  
Falstaff *Falstaff*  
Marchese *La Traviata*  
Papageno *The Magic Flute*  
Schicchi (cov) *Gianni Schicchi*  
Ford *The Merry Wives of Windsor*

### Company and Conductor

Opera at the Acorn Theatre (2011) Philip Bauman  
Opera Naples (2008) Lucy Arner  
Opera at the Acorn Theatre (2008) w/piano  
Chamber Opera Chicago (2007) Beaumont Glass  
Western Michigan University (2006) David Little  
L'Opera Piccola of Chicago (2005) Richard Boldrey  
DuPage Opera Theater (2001) Harold Bauer  
Chicago Opera Theater (2000) Lawrence Rapchak  
DuPage Opera Theater (2000) Harold Bauer

### Symphony Orchestras

Marchese *La Traviata* Kalamazoo Symphony (2011) Raymond Harvey  
Ping *Turandot* Kalamazoo Symphony (2009) Raymond Harvey  
Sharpless *Madama Butterfly* Battle Creek Symphony (2008) Anne Harrigan  
Benoit *La Bohème* Kalamazoo Symphony (2002) Raymond Harvey

### Oratorio

Bach: *Mass in B-minor*, The Bach Ensemble of Naples FL (ant. 2012) Ronald Doiron  
DuBois: *Seven Last Words of Christ*, Naples Orch. and Chorus (2011) Robert Herrema  
Handel, *Messiah*, The Bach Ensemble of Naples FL (2011, 2008, 2006) Ronald Doiron  
Bach: *Magnificat*, The Bach Ensemble of Naples, FL (2005) Ronald Doiron  
Fauré, *Requiem*, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Marco Island FL (2005) Ronald Doiron  
Bach, *Mass in A major* The Bach Ensemble of Naples, FL (2004) Ronald Doiron  
Copland, *Old American Songs* Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale (2003) Bruce Hall  
Vaughan Williams, *Dona Nobis Pacem*, Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale (2003) Bruce Hall

### Solo and Collaborative Recitals Performed (selected)

"The Soviet-American Connection" Chicago Cultural Center (2011)  
Songs by Russian and American Composers, St. Petersburg Conservatory (2010)  
"Songs and Sonatas of William Bolcom," Jewel Box Series, Chicago, (2009)  
"Voice and Virtuosity," Mostly Music of Chicago (2006)  
"Hebrew Heroes," Michigan Festival of Sacred Music (2005)  
Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky Romances, Russian Festival, Kalamazoo (2005)  
"American Songbook," Emmanuel Church, West Hampstead, London (2005)  
Tchaikovsky Songs and Arias, Russian Festival, Kalamazoo, MI, (2004)  
"Song and Sonority," Mostly Music of Chicago (2004)  
Rubloff Cantors Concert, Temple Sholom, Chicago (2004)  
"Hebrew Heroes," Temple Moses Montefiore, Normal, IL (2004)  
Lawson Concert, Temple Am Sholom, Chicago, IL (2003)  
Rubloff Cantors Concert, Temple Sholom, Chicago IL (2003)  
Michigan Festival of Sacred Music (November 2001)

**CARL J. RATNER • Baritone**

Representation: **OVATION! Management**

Blanche Artis Lewis

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

---

**REVIEWS**

“His performance as Puccini’s [Gianni Schicchi] was a delight—charming, indeed lovable, and nicely sung, too”

From a tribute by Richard Covello  
Reviewer for *Opera Canada*

“The Acorn's Papageno was performed by the multitalented Carl Ratner, a singer, director, teacher, and actor--plus a magical flute player.”

Ed Vincent,  
*Oak Park Journal*  
<http://oakparkjournal.com/2008/2008-Magic-Flute-Acorn-theatre-review.html>

“Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra's 'Turandot' was thrilling. Soloists ranged from good to superb. Carl Ratner (Ping), David Wahrmund (Pang) and Peter Tantsits (Pong) sang and acted exceptionally well.

C.J. Gianakaris  
*Kalamazoo Gazette*