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Theodore Baerg, baritone

Baritone Theodore Baerg had laid claim to a major international career, with the New York Philharmonic, San Francisco Opera and Glyndebourne Festival just three of his recent destinations. Kurt Masur led him in his New York Philharmonic debut as Count Homonay in Strauss' *Zigeunerbaron* in the Summer At Lincoln Center Series and he has since returned to Lincoln Center Festival for *Fidelio*, again under the baton of Kurt Masur. Mr. Baerg first appeared at the Glyndebourne Festival as Ramiro in Ravel's *L'Heure Espagnole* and for the San Francisco Opera as Der Musiklehrer in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. He has enjoyed many seasons at the San Francisco Opera in portrayals of Sharples in *Madama Butterfly*, Ned Keene in *Peter Grimes*, Danilo in *Die Lustige Witwe* and Ping in *Turandot*.

Mr. Baerg's 2006-2007 season began with his sensational run as Emil Debeque in *South Pacific* at the renowned Stratford Festival. Other engagements in the season included performances as Dr. Bartolo in Rossini's *Barbiere di Siviglia* with the Edmonton Opera, the Musiklehrer in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with the Vancouver Opera, his debut the role of Dr. Daly in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Sorcerer* at the Bard Festival, and performances with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and at Caramoor.

Mr. Baerg opened the 2004-2005 season at the San Francisco Opera as Mr. Redburn in *Billy Budd* and ended the season with his debut at Glimmerglass as des Grieux in *Le Portrait de Manon*. On the concert stage, he was heard in Duruflé's *Requiem* with the Richard Eaton Singers of Edmonton, joined Erich Kunzel and the Toronto Symphony for a Pops evening, and was heard in Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* with the Thunder Bay Symphony and *Belshazzar's Feast* with Orchestra London.

In recent seasons Mr. Baerg was in Calgary and Edmonton for Malatesta in *Don Pasquale* and starred in the title role of *Wozzeck* for Pacific Opera Victoria. The busy baritone was featured in Tampa, Thunder Bay, Québec City and Hamilton (Brott Summer Music) in *Carmina Burana* while concerts devoted to Cole Porter and Viennese light classics took him to Vancouver and Edmonton.

Mr. Baerg's 2003-2004 season was filled with roles new to his repertoire. These included the Father in Britten's *The Prodigal Son* for the Britten Festival in Canada, Emil in *South Pacific* for Edmonton Opera, Count di Luna in *Il Trovatore* for Orchestra London and des Grieux in performances of Massenet's *Le portrait de Manon* for Opera Ontario. He returned to the roles of Malatesta in *Don Pasquale* for Opera Lyra and Ping in *Turandot* for L'Opéra de Québec, and especially cherished his first *War Requiem* for the Britten Festival in London, Ontario.

The extensive operatic repertoire of Mr. Baerg includes *Falstaff* (Ford), the title roles in *Rigoletto*, *Eugene Onegin* and *Don Giovanni*, and *Hänsel und Gretel* (Peter). Other roles include Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Dandini in *La cenerentola*, Lescaut in *Manon Lescaut*, Silvio in *I pagliacci*, Valentin in *Faust*, George in *Of Mice and Men* and the Fabulist in Peter's *The Golden Ass*.

New York City Opera audiences have hailed Mr. Baerg as the Haji in *Kismet*, Fontaine in *The Desert Song* and as *The Merry Widow's* Danilo. Saraste introduced Mr. Baerg to Toronto Symphony audiences in *Carmina Burana* and Charles Dutoit was his conductor for the Schubert Masses *No. 2* and *6* with L'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal. Davies' *Revelation*, Rossini's *La petite messe solennelle* and *Stabat Mater*, Barber's *Dover Beach*, *Carmina Burana* and *Showboat* also make regular appearances on his schedule for such organizations as the Lanaudiere and Elora festivals, L'Orchestre Symphonique du Québec, Chorus Niagara, the Kitchener Waterloo and Mendelssohn choirs and the Kingston Symphony. In addition, the dashing baritone is a popular star for orchestra evenings devoted to the works of Strauss, Lehár, and "The Best of Broadway". Mr. Baerg is Professor of Voice and Opera at the University of Western Ontario.