

VERNON HARTMAN *Producer/Director/Baritone*

Vernon Hartman is Founder and President of Impresario Productions, LLC, an independent production company serving all aspects of the arts industry. To this task he brings over thirty years of experience as performer, director, producer, and administrator. He has produced and directed opera and musical theater for well over twenty organizations in North America, and holds or has held such positions as Producer of Opera (Evansville Philharmonic, Opera Tampa, Bardavon 1869 Opera House), General/Artistic Director (Opera Birmingham), Executive Producer (Nickel City Opera – Buffalo) and Artistic Advisor (Boheme Opera – Trenton). Most recently Mr. Hartman has overseen productions of ***La bohème*** for the Rockford (IL) Symphony, ***Porgy and Bess*** and ***The Pirates of Penzance*** for Evansville, ***Suor Angelica/Gianni Schicchi*** and ***Le Nozze di Figaro*** at the Teatro Bramante in Urbania, Italy, ***Die Fledermaus*** at Kent State University and ***Rigoletto*** with the Dubuque Symphony. In addition, in April 2006 he sang the world premiere of a new work (***The Passion according to King David*** by Richard O. Faulk) with members of the Houston Symphony. Mr. Hartman's busy 2007-08 calendar includes productions of ***Rigoletto*** (Greensboro Opera), ***L'elisir d'amore*** (Opera Santa Barbara), and ***Tosca*** (Rockford Symphony).

As a singer, his guest appearances have taken him throughout Europe and North America. Highlights include creating the role of defense attorney Fred Moore in the world premiere of Anton Coppola's epic ***Sacco and Vanzetti*** for Opera Tampa; Pentheus in a major revival of H. W. Henze's ***The Bassarids*** at Madrid's Teatro Real, a co-production with Semper Oper, Dresden; Amonasro in ***Aida*** for Opern Air Gars in Austria; Scarpia in ***Tosca*** in Bergen, Norway, a co-production of the Bergen Philharmonic and West Norwegian Opera; ***Carmina Burana*** for the National Symphony; an all-Mozart concert with Julius Rudel in Cherry Hill, NJ; Ralph Vaughn-Williams' ***Sea Symphony*** with the West Virginia Symphony; and a series of Christmas concerts with both the Riverside Symphonica and the Norddeutsche Rundfunk in Hannover.

For the better part of two decades Mr. Hartman was a stalwart at the Metropolitan Opera, where his many appearances included Figaro in ***Il Barbiere di Siviglia***, Eisenstein in ***Die Fledermaus***, Count Almaviva in ***Le Nozze di Figaro***, Valentin in ***Faust***, Silvio in ***I Pagliacci***, Ping in ***Turandot***, Mercutio in ***Romeo et Juliette***, Lescaut in ***Manon Lescaut*** and Redburn in ***Billy Budd***. Mr. Hartman has sung with most of North America's leading regional opera companies including Atlanta, Austin, Berkshire, Boston, Carolina, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dallas, Dayton, Des Moines, Fort Worth, Grand Rapids, Greensboro, Hawaii, Knoxville, Long Beach, Milwaukee, Montreal, Minnesota, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Seattle, Tampa, Triangle, Utah and Virginia.

An active concert artist, Mr. Hartman has appeared at Carnegie Hall as Pentheus in H. W. Henze's ***The Bassarids*** (Christoph von Dohnanyi conducting) and in the much-publicized revival of William Bolcom's massive ***Songs of Innocence and Experience*** conducted by Leonard Slatkin. His New York

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Philharmonic appearances include Bernstein's Songfest, Copland's *Old American Songs* and "*A Tribute to Lenny*", concerts celebrating the 75th anniversary of Leonard Bernstein's birth and coinciding with the release of the BMG/RCA Red Seal recording of *Songfest* featuring Mr. Hartman and conducted by Mr. Slatkin. He has sung with many of North America's foremost orchestras and festivals including those of St. Louis, New York, Cleveland, Washington, Pittsburgh, Blossom, Houston, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Grant Park, Montreal, Minnesota, West Virginia, Erie, Cherry Hill, Great Woods, Indianapolis, Riverside (NJ), San Antonio, Springfield, Evansville, Kalamazoo, Amherst, Lakeland, Wichita, Stamford, Waukesha and Dayton.

Mr. Hartman recently returned to his original calling, musical theater, tackling Emile de Becque in *South Pacific* (alongside Tony Award nominees Susan Egan and Gary Beach) for Sacramento Music Circus, later repeating the role opposite former Olympian and Tony nominee Cathy Rigby at Houston's Theatre Under the Stars. Much in demand for master classes, lectures and other educational activities, Mr. Hartman recently spoke at Teachers College, Columbia University, discoursing on "The Performer's Perspective," and he conducted seminars and master classes at Kent State University, Scuola Italia (Urbania, Italy), Ashland University, Clarke College, Southwest Texas State University, Birmingham-Southern College, The University of Evansville, Bowling Green State University and The Governor's School for the Arts at Old Dominion University.

Mr. Hartman was born in Dallas, Texas and raised at San Marcos in the central Texas hill country. He attended Southwest Texas State University and North Texas State University and received an Artist's Diploma from the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. After extensive experience as an athlete, professional musician and broadcaster, he made his professional stage debut at Fort Worth's Casa Mañana in *South Pacific*, followed by his operatic bow with the Fort Worth Opera in *Salome*. He first drew attention as Rigoletto with Shreveport Opera at age 22, and soon was touring with Western Opera Theater as Mozart's Figaro and Olin Blitch in *Susannah*. Following a debut as Silvio in *I Pagliacci*, Mr. Hartman spent five years with the New York City Opera, including two coast-to-coast tours as Germont in *La Traviata*, before joining the roster of the Metropolitan Opera (for Rossini's Figaro) in 1981. His European debut was Guglielmo in *Così fan Tutte* at the 1977 Spoleto Festival.