

CHRISTIAN SANDERS TENOR



Christian Sanders has been hailed as a “...voice whose color belies his age. Someone to watch!” (Bill Eadie, SanDiego.com). His operatic repertoire encompasses Tom Rakewell in *The Rake’s Progress*, the title role in *Albert Herring*, Rodolfo in *La bohème*, Fenton in *Falstaff*, Laurie in *Little Women*, Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, and Prince Charmant in *Cendrillon*, as well as a broad range of modern opera and work by living composers.

Mr. Sanders’ busy 2022-2023 season brings several significant engagements in new opera as well as standard repertoire. He begins with a return to Minnesota Opera as Prince/Rat/Doll Shop Father in *Edward Tulane*, makes his role debut as Loge in *Das Rheingold* at Dayton Opera, returns to Opera Santa Barbara as Dorvil in *La scala di seta*, reprises his Tobias Ragg in *Sweeney Todd* with Austin Opera, and returns to Opera Theatre St. Louis as Little Bat in *Susannah*. In the previous season, he made his company debut with Opera Santa Barbara singing The Song Seller in *Il tabarro*, covered Miles Zegner in *Proving Up* with the Lyric Opera of Chicago (canceled due to COVID-19), performed Donald Trump in *The Central Park Five* with Portland Opera, appeared as the title role in *Orpheus in the Underworld* with Madison Opera, and joined Opera Theatre of Saint Louis during the summer as Monostatos in *The Magic Flute*. The 2020-21 season featured his return to Des Moines Metro Opera as Tobias Ragg in *Sweeney Todd* and Timothy in *Fellow Travelers*, a number of workshops for new pieces such as *The Opposable Thumb* and *Trade* with American Lyric Theatre and Beth Morrison Projects as well as performances in *The Shining* as Lloyd the Bartender with Minnesota Opera (canceled due to COVID-19).

As a member of the Utah Opera Resident Artist Program, Christian performed as Il Messaggero in *Aida*, Don Curzio in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Remendado in *Carmen*, the Padre in *Man of La Mancha*, Normanno in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and Castleman in Beck’s *The Long Walk*. In addition to these opportunities, Mr. Sanders had the honor of being a part of Des Moines Metro Opera’s Apprentice Artist program. His roles with DMMO include the Novice in *Billy Budd* and Mr. Erlanson in *A Little Night Music* in the summer of 2017. Christian joined the Young Artist Program at The Glimmerglass Festival for the 2018 season singing Jonathan Dale in the Pulitzer prize-winning opera *Silent Night*. He also stepped in as Tony in *West Side Story* during that same season under the baton of Maestro David Charles Abell. Christian rejoined The Glimmerglass Festival in 2019 to sing Bégearss in *The Ghosts of Versailles* by Corigliano and sang the same role in November 2019 with Château de Versailles Spectacles in France. Christian joined the Minnesota Opera Resident Artist Program for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 seasons where he sang Bill in Jonathan Dove’s *Flight*, the Young Servant in Strauss’ *Elektra*, Prunier in *La rondine*, and Jonathan Dale in the original production of Kevin Puts’ *Silent Night*, which was recorded by Pentaton. He has appeared as the Prison Chaplain in the world premiere of Theodore Morrison’s *Oscar* with the Santa Fe Opera and has sung the title role in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* at the Aspen Music Festival.

On the concert stage, Mr. Sanders has been the tenor soloist in Handel’s *Messiah*, Bach’s *Magnificat*, Beethoven’s *Choral Fantasy*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, and Bruckner’s *Te Deum* with the Point Loma Choral Union. He recently performed with the Rice Chorale at Rice University in Houston for Schubert’s *Mass No. 2* and Orff’s *Carmina burana*. He has also appeared as a guest soloist with the San Diego Mormon Choir and Orchestra and as the tenor soloist in Mozart’s *Coronation Mass* with the San Diego Festival Chorus in a live televised concert.

Mr. Sanders is a scholarship recipient of the R. Faulk and the D. Greiner Encouragement Awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and received his Master of Music degree in Operatic Performance from Rice University on the full-tuition Edward J. and Frances Bing Memorial Scholarship. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a minor in Cell and Molecular Biology from Point Loma Nazarene University and currently lives in San Diego, California.

CHRISTIAN SANDERS

Tenor

ROLES PERFORMED

Little Bat	<i>Susannah</i>	Opera Theatre of Saint Louis	2023
Loge	<i>Das Rheingold</i>	Dayton Opera	2023
Toby	<i>Sweeney Todd</i>	Austin Opera	2023
Dorvil	<i>La scala di seta</i>	Opera Santa Barbara	2022
Prince/Father/Rat	<i>Edward Tulane</i>	Minnesota Opera	2022
Monostatos	<i>The Magic Flute</i>	Opera Theatre of Saint Louis	2022
Orpheus	<i>Orpheus in the Underworld</i>	Madison Opera	2022
Donald Trump	<i>The Central Park Five</i>	Portland Opera	2022
Wilbur Wright	<i>Finding Wright</i>	Dayton Opera	2022
Venditore di canzonetta	<i>Il tabarro</i>	Opera Santa Barbara	2021
Tim Laughlin	<i>Fellow Travelers</i>	Des Moines Metro Opera	2021
Tobias Ragg	<i>Sweeney Todd</i>	Des Moines Metro Opera	2021
Lloyd the Bartender*	<i>The Shining</i>	Minnesota Opera	2021
Scott Smith*	<i>Harvey Milk</i>	Opera Parallèle	2020
Bill	<i>Flight (Dove)</i>	Minnesota Opera	2020
Young Servant	<i>Elektra</i>	Minnesota Opera	2019
Bégearss	<i>Ghosts of Versailles</i>	Château de Versailles Spectacles	2019
Bégearss	<i>Ghosts of Versailles</i>	The Glimmerglass Festival	2019
Sprink (cover)	<i>Silent Night</i>	Minnesota Opera	2018
Jonathan Dale	<i>Silent Night</i>	Minnesota Opera	2018
Prunier	<i>La rondine</i>	Minnesota Opera	2018
Tony	<i>West Side Story</i>	The Glimmerglass Festival	2018
Jonathan Dale	<i>Silent Night</i>	The Glimmerglass Festival	2018
Le Remendado	<i>Carmen</i>	Hawaii Opera Theatre	2017
Novice	<i>Billy Budd</i>	Des Moines Metro Opera	2017
Castleman	<i>The Long Walk (Beck)</i>	Utah Opera	2017
Almaviva	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Opera de Tijuana	2015
Dorian Gray	<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>	Aspen Music Festival	2014
Albert Herring	<i>Albert Herring</i>	Rice Opera	2014
Prison Chaplain	<i>Oscar</i>	Santa Fe Opera	2013
Tom Rakewell	<i>The Rake's Progress</i>	University of Colorado Opera	2012

Concert

Tenor Soloist	Monteverdi: <i>Vespro della Beata Vergine</i>	Cathedral of the Madeleine	2016
Tenor Soloist	Handel: <i>Messiah</i>	Utah Symphony	2016, 2015
Tenor Soloist	Handel: <i>Messiah</i>	Erie Philharmonic Orchestra	2015
Tenor Soloist	Orff: <i>Carmina burana</i>	Rice University Chorale	2014

Honors & Awards

First Place Winner	Ruth Burr Competition, Tuesday Musical Club – Houston	2015
Recipient	Edward J. and Frances Bing Memorial Scholarship, Shepherd School of Music, Rice University	2013-2015
Regional Finalist	Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, Rocky Mountain Region	2012
Winner	Musical Merit Competition, Musical Merit Foundation of San Diego	2011
National Semi-Finalist	Classical Singer Competition, Classical Singer Magazine	2011

*Cancelled due to COVID-19

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TENOR

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Monostatos – The Magic Flute – Opera Theatre of Saint Louis

“the beautiful voice of Christian Sanders”

- Broadway World

“Christian Sanders does well in his Opera Theatre debut as the scheming Monostatos”

- Ladue News

“Christian Sanders is a fine comic villain as Monostatos.”

- HEC-TV St. Louis

Timothy Laughlin – Fellow Travelers – Des Moines Metro Opera

“Tenor Christian Sanders revealed an affecting catch in his timbre as Timothy Laughlin.” - Opera News

"One of the most captivating parts of the night came in Christian Sander's performance as Timothy Laughlin. I was excited to see him take on another role as I thoroughly enjoyed his performance as Toby in this season's Sweeney Todd. With this role, he left his heart on the stage, not only making this an amazing performance, but one I will not soon forget."

- Broadway World

"Tenor Christian Sanders sang the role of Timothy with an innocent vulnerability and vocal clarity. Sanders' voice cut through the orchestra despite the venue's acoustic issues, connecting to the audience on a visceral level. . . Sanders' voice captured this sense of vulnerability with deceptive ease, and the fresh-faced tenor gave the most compelling dramatic performance of the evening, a feat that is all the more impressive considering this was his first time singing the role. Timothy's aria in the church after his first night in Hawk's arms was a tender expression of first love's rush, and Sanders perfectly captured the beauty and tragedy of this moment."

- Schmopera

Tobias Ragg – Sweeney Todd – Des Moines Metro Opera

"Tobias Ragg is often presented as a somewhat hapless puppy dog. Not so here, with Christian Sanders characterizing him as more a coltish street urchin, his steady, shining tenor ringing out in the house. His version of “Not While I’m Around” was a production highlight, infused with such an appealing boyish determination that it earned a prolonged ovation."

- Opera Today

"The evening continues with a very charismatic performance from Christian Sanders as Tobias. He not only commands the audience's attention whenever he is on stage but exudes a charm that will have the audience members themselves wanting to purchase miracle elixir or meat pies right from him."

- BroadwayWorld

“Christian Sanders immediately won the hearts of the audience with his infectiously funny and energetic performance of “Pirelli’s Miracle Elixir.” Sanders portrayed Tobias Ragg as a clever young man, quick with the sales patter but desperately hungry for affection. His relationship with Mrs. Lovett was adorable, making it all the more heartbreaking when he discovered the truth.”

- Schmopera

Bégearss - The Ghosts of Versailles - The Glimmerglass Festival

"The villainous Patrick Honoré Bégearss is served up with obvious relish, with a side of scenery to chew on, by Christian Sanders. Mr. Sanders' clarion, bright-toned tenor sailed through the treacherous Aria of the Worm with nary a problem, undaunted by the tessitura or imposing orchestration." - Opera Today

"Christian Sanders showed himself to be a powerful tenor and strong stage communicator as the despicable villain through numerous reprises of 'Aria of the Worm' in what clearly was intended as a great crowd pleaser. He pranced and hissed and staggered on the stage as if he had been coached by Johnny Depp in 'Pirates of the Caribbean.'" -DC Theatre Scene

"Christian Sanders revealed a ringing tenor that seems destined for distinction..." - Bachtrack

"Christian Sanders was superb as Bégearss, never more so than when he was abusing Tucker Reed Breder's Wilhelm." - Seen and Heard International

"Standouts included the theatrically astute tenor Christian Sanders, as Bégearss, the cartoon villain in Beaumarchais's opera, who has two lengthy, vehement arias about vermin..." - The Wall Street Journal

"Christian Sanders gets some of the best moments of the night as the dastardly Bégearss." - Times Union

"Christian Sanders performed the role of the villain Bégearss singing Bégearss' anthem Long Live the Worm with spectacular success, receiving one of the evening's biggest ovations." - Opera Warhorses

"As Bégearss, the villain from Beaumarchais's opera within-an-opera, tenor Christian Sanders understands that he inhabits what's essentially an animated Disney farce brought to life. He has perfectly assimilated the flamboyant mannerisms of Jafar and Captain Hook, flashing deliciously sadistic sneers as he flicks about a leather riding crop. Sanders's clarion rendition of Bégearss's evil credo, the "Worm" aria, is the first time I've heard this number without worrying whether the tenor would crack on the taxing refrain." - Opera News (CD/DVD Recording)

Achille di Rosalba - Il cappello di paglia di Firenze - Minnesota Opera

"The humor of some actors landed more than others but the clear fan favorite was pink-tuxedo wearing Viscount Achille di Rosalba played by Christian Sanders." - Minnesota Playlist

Jonathan Dale - Silent Night - Minnesota Opera

"Christian Sanders, seen in last month's La Rondine, gave a chilling performance of a reluctant soldier who progresses to a cold-blooded killer." - Schmopera

Prunier - La rondine - Minnesota Opera

"As Prunier, Christian Sanders brings a strong, soothing tenor to his verses. He conveys Prunier's sly nature, proffering the poetry of true love, while pursuing something less virtuous." - Talkin' Broadway

"Beside her (Lisette) the Prunier of Christian Sanders cut a raffish figure, and their interplay lit the stage in its three-dimensionality." - Star Tribune

Novice - Billy Budd - Des Moines Metro Opera

“Christian Sanders’ clear, shining tenor served the role of the Novice well” - Opera Today

“There was excellent work from Christian Sanders as the frightened novice.” - Opera News

Albert Herring - Albert Herring - Portland State University

“Sanders performed his transformative role with stage-savvy sparkle and athleticism...Sanders had no competition for stardom.” - Oregon Arts Watch

“Christian Sanders as Albert Herring was a real showstopper. His incredible tenor was matched by his acting--even in the midst of a high comedy such as this, his ability to portray the frustration and smothered angst that seems to define Herring's life was crucial. His voice was up to this difficult task, expressive and seemingly effortless, and with impeccable diction to boot. Sanders took his time enunciating, acting--doing all the small things necessary to make comedy work... (He) worked tirelessly to make sure all the subtleties were there.” - Northwest Reverb