

Lester Lynch, *baritone*

Lester Lynch, an established dramatic baritone, is making his mark in some of the world's leading opera houses. Known for his charismatic portrayals and commanding voice, he is receiving rave reviews as he masters some of the most important baritone roles from Scarpia to Rigoletto to Count di Luna. *Opera Today* recently enthused, "It was booming baritone Lester Lynch who served notice that he is now in consideration for admittance to the Scarpia Preferred Pantheon – when he needed to pour it on he had the Puccinian fire power and the dramatic heat to raise the hair on the back of your neck." *The Cincinnati Enquirer* wrote, "Lester Lynch made a superb Macbeth, delivering an authoritative performance with a firm, powerful voice and wonderfully communicating both tragedy and madness."

Mr. Lynch will be heard in the 2015–2016 season with the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra for Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*, and as George Wilson in *The Great Gatsby* with Semperoper Dresden, and as Porgy in *Porgy and Bess* with the Spoleto Festival. Future seasons include leading roles with the Welsh National Opera, Teatro all Scala, Pittsburgh Opera, and Semperoper Dresden.

His most recent performances include Lescaut in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle with the Festspielhaus Baden-Baden, Crown in *Porgy and Bess* with the Opéra de Montréal, Amonasro in Verdi's *Aida* with Pittsburgh Opera, Carbon in *Cyrano de Bergerac* with San Francisco Opera, Herald in *Lohengrin* with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Gérard in *Andrea Chénier* with the Bregenzer Festspiele, Nottingham in *Roberto Devereux* and Count di Luna in *Il trovatore* with the Minnesota Opera. He made debuts with the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian in Portugal where he was featured as Iago in Verdi's *Otello* and in the title role of Verdi's *Falstaff*. Upcoming recordings include Iago in Verdi's *Otello*, Porgy in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and a Verissimo French aria CD to be recorded by Pentatone Classics.

Mr. Lynch has worked with some of the world's most renowned conductors and directors. Under the baton of Sir Simon Rattle and the Berlin Philharmonic, he has sung the role of Crown in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, and the Bauer in Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*. He has also appeared with conductors Sir Andrew Davis, Plácido Domingo, Larry Foster, Ulf Schirmer, and John DeMain, and performed under eminent directors Sir Richard Eyre, Christopher Alden, and Francesca Zambello.

His performance of Crown with San Francisco Opera's production of *Porgy and Bess* was recently released on DVD. Pentatone Classics has released his recordings of two operas by the contemporary composer Gordon Getty – the title role in *Plump Jack*, and Cauchon in *Joan and the Bells*. Another important release is a recording of Mahler's Symphony No.8 conducted by JoAnn Falletta.

Mr. Lynch's regular repertoire includes Amonasro in Verdi's *Aida*, Marcello in Puccini's *La Bohème*, Germont in Verdi's *La Traviata*, Count di Luna in *Il trovatore*, the title role of *Rigoletto*, Iago in *Otello*, the title role in Verdi's *Falstaff*, Guglielmo in Puccini's *Le Villi*, Paolo in Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, Flint in Britten's *Billy Budd*, Renato in *Un ballo in maschera*, Alfio in *Cavalleria rusticana*, Tonio in *I Pagliacci*, Scarpia in Puccini's *Tosca* and the title role in Verdi's *Macbeth*.

An accomplished concert artist, Mr. Lynch has performed a wide and varied repertoire with orchestras across the world, including the Berlin Philharmonic, the New York Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, and the American Symphony Orchestra. His recent Carnegie Hall solo debut of Karl A. Hartmann's *Gesangsszene* with the American Symphony Orchestra received rave reviews.

Mr. Lynch has received many distinguished awards, including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the George London Vocal Competition, and the Sullivan Awards. His work with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis earned him the Richard Gaddes Award.

His recent volunteer work includes two engagements with the Harare International Festival of Art in Zimbabwe in 2012 and 2013 where he produced a night of arias and ensembles with a group of his colleagues.