

Tenor **Bernard Holcomb** has “already made a name for himself in the world of opera” with his “delicate and flexible” voice (Opera Wire) and the “appealing sweetness and clarity [of] his tone” (New York Times). Katy Walsh of Chicago Theater Beat said it best: “Although everyone [at Lyric Opera of Chicago] can sing, Holcomb reminds us why we come to the Lyric.”

Last season, Mr. Holcomb made his Metropolitan Opera début in Terence Blanchard and Michael Cristofer’s *Champion*, his house début at Opera Omaha in *X, the Life and Times of Malcolm X*, and joined Central City Opera as Iago in *Otello*. In addition, Holcomb performed with On Site Opera as Harlekin in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*, and took part in the workshop for *The Pigeon Keeper*, a new commission from Santa Fe Opera. In concert, Holcomb performed Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* with Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra, Hailstork and Martin’s *A Knee on the Neck* with New York Choral Society, a holiday concert with the Cincinnati Pops under the baton of Mo. John Morris Russel, Jacksonville Symphony’s concert *Lush Life: Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn*, as well as Damien Geter’s *An African American Requiem* with Fort Worth Opera, after having appeared in its world premiere in the 21-22 season. Holcomb returns to The Metropolitan Opera this season for both *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X* and *Fire Shut Up In My Bones* and joins Eugene Opera as Alfredo in *La Traviata*.

With notable engagements at esteemed venues like Carnegie Hall and the Dresden Semperoper, Holcomb continues to captivate audiences worldwide. His repertoire spans from classical masterpieces like Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9* to contemporary works such as Damien Geter’s “*An African American Requiem*.”

An alumnus of the Lyric Opera’s Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, Bernard performed such roles as Ernesto in *Don Pasquale* and Rodolfo in *La bohème*. During his Lyric tenure, Mr. Holcomb appeared in the main stage performances of *Elektra*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *Don Pasquale*, *Les contes d’Hoffmann* and covered major roles in *Werther*, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, and *Rigoletto*.

Other notable engagements include Paolino in Cimarosa’s *Il matrimonio segreto* and Alfredo in *La Traviata* with Pine Mountain Music Festival; *The Crabman* in *Porgy and Bess*, which led to an international tour of *Porgy and Bess* through Russia, Poland, Greece, Latvia, Estonia and Germany, and Gastone in *La Traviata* with Michigan Opera Theatre. Bernard also appeared on several themed song recitals as part of a collaboration between Lyric Opera of Chicago and Chicago’s WFMT 98.7 which aired throughout the summer of 2013. A Detroit native, Holcomb holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music.

