

CONOR McDONALD
BARITONE

Baritone Conor McDonald has been lauded by the *New York Times* as “irresistible” and praised by *Opera News* for his “warm voice and winning personality.” Engagements for the 2021-2022 season include the cover of the Major-Domo in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with The Metropolitan Opera and Dancaïre in *Carmen* in his Minnesota Opera debut.

Based in New York, McDonald has performed as Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia* as a guest artist with CUNY Queens; the Traveler in *Curlew River* with the Mark Morris Dance Group at Brooklyn Academy of Music; and several appearances as baritone soloist with New York City Ballet, including Bernstein’s *Dybbuk*, Stravinsky’s *Les Noces*, and Brahms’s *Liebeslieder Walzer*.

Performances for the 2019-2020 season included his debut with Austin Opera as Marullo in *Rigoletto*, a master class and recital at Lee University, where he performed art songs by Mussorgsky, Britten, Poulenc, and Milhaud with fellow Tanglewood alumna Dr. ChoEun Lee, and a workshop of *The Halloween Tree* with American Lyric Theater.

As a Filene Artist at Wolf Trap Opera, he performed Tobias Ragg in *Sweeney Todd*, the title role in Gluck’s *L’île de Merlin*, the Major-Domo in Strauss’s *Ariadne auf Naxos*, as well as a recital of art songs at the Phillips Collection. Other recent engagements include Marchese d’Obigny in *La Traviata* with the Atlanta Opera; Captain Corcoran in *H.M.S. Pinafore* with Anchorage Opera; and Ponchel in Kevin Puts’s *Silent Night* and the Soldier in Stravinsky’s *The Soldier’s Tale* at the 2018 Glimmerglass Festival.

As a studio artist at Nashville Opera, Kentucky Opera, and Des Moines Metro Opera, McDonald was heard in such roles as Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*, Pish-Tush in *The Mikado*, Harlekin in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Elder McLean in *Susannah*, and the Cardinal and Priest in Philip Glass’s *Galileo Galilei*. He also performed the role of Dandini in Opera Iowa’s traveling production of *La Cenerentola* in 2016.

With an interest in the development of new works, McDonald has performed in workshops of newly commissioned operas coproduced by the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and Cincinnati Opera, including Scott Davenport Richards’s *Blind Injustice*, Gregory Spears’s *Fellow Travelers*, Daniel Catán’s *Meet John Doe*, and Terence Blanchard’s *Champion*.

An active recitalist, McDonald has presented songs by Britten, Schubert, Ravel, Schumann, Debussy, Dessau, Mussorgsky, Eisler, and Weill. McDonald holds bachelor’s degrees in vocal performance and art history from Northwestern University, and a master’s degree in voice and opera from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where he studied with Bill McGraw.



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OPERA

Dancaire	<i>Carmen</i>	Minnesota Opera	2022
Major-Domo (cover)	<i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i>	Metropolitan Opera	2022
Tobias Ragg	<i>Sweeney Todd</i>	Wolf Trap Opera	2021
Morales*	<i>Carmen</i>	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	2021
JJ	<i>The Halloween Tree</i>	American Lyric Theater	2020
Marullo	<i>Rigoletto</i>	Austin Opera	2019
Merlin	<i>L'île de Merlin</i> (Gluck)	Wolf Trap Opera	2019
Marquis d'Obigny	<i>La Traviata</i>	Atlanta Opera	2019
Captain Corcoran	<i>HMS Pinafore</i>	Anchorage Opera	2018
Ponchel	<i>Silent Night</i>	Glimmerglass Festival	2018
Elder McLean	<i>Susannah</i>	Nashville Opera	2018
Hercules	<i>Hercules vs. Vampires</i>	Nashville Opera	2018
Owen Hart (cover)	<i>Dead Man Walking</i>	Kentucky Opera	2017
Harlekin	<i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i>	Kentucky Opera	2017
Pietro (cover)	<i>Siege of Calais</i>	Glimmerglass Festival	2017
Ike Skidmore	<i>Oklahoma!</i>	Glimmerglass Festival	2017
Traveler	<i>Curlew River</i>	Mark Morris Dance Group	2017
Pish-Tush	<i>The Mikado</i>	Kentucky Opera	2017
Yamadori	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Kentucky Opera	2016
Cardinal 3/Priest	<i>Galileo Galilei</i>	Des Moines Metro Opera	2016
Dandini	<i>La Cenerentola</i>	Opera Iowa	2016
Junius	<i>The Rape of Lucretia</i>	CUNY Queens	2015
Spencer/Sourpuss	<i>Meet John Doe</i>	CCM/Cincinnati Opera Fusion Project	2015
Malatesta	<i>Don Pasquale</i>	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music	2014
Tommy McIntyre	<i>Fellow Travelers</i>	CCM/Cincinnati Opera Fusion Project	2013
Papageno	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music	2013
Carl Magnus	<i>A Little Night Music</i>	Castleton Festival	2012
Sid	<i>Albert Herring</i>	Northwestern University	2012
Papageno	<i>The Magic Flute</i>	Northwestern University	2010

Concert

Soloist*	<i>Estancia</i>	New York City Ballet	2020
Guest Artist	Solo Recital	Lee University	2019
Baritone Soloist	<i>To Be Certain of the Dawn</i>	Lexington Philharmonic	2016
Jesus	<i>St. John Passion</i>	Cincinnati Conservatory of Music	2013

Training Programs

Young Artist	Nashville Opera Mary Ragland Young Artist Program	2018
Young Artist	Glimmerglass Festival	2017
Studio Artist	Kentucky Opera Sanford Studio Artist Program	2016-17
Apprentice Artist	Des Moines Metro Opera	2016
Vocal Fellow	Tanglewood Music Center	2013; '14

*Cancelled due to COVID-19

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CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Tobias Ragg – Sweeney Todd – Wolf Trap Opera

"McDonald delivers a moving performance as a street child who loses his innocence on the path to madness and death."

-MD Theatre Guide

"Conor McDonald as Toby showed off a voice with an arresting depth and spin." -Parterre Box

Ponchel – Silent Night – The Glimmerglass Festival

"With his warm voice and winning personality, Conor McDonald was a stand-out as the homesick French aide-de-camp Ponchel."

-Opera News

Hercules – Hercules vs. Vampires – Nashville Opera

"The standout performance was given by baritone Connor McDonald, singing the role of Hercules, whose robust voice filled the hall with a clear, glimmery richness that lends itself to modern opera. Even though he was not the focal point - that was the film itself - he committed to acting the role, making him a delight to watch as well."

-Schmopera

Traveler – Curlew River – Mark Morris Dance Group

"Conor McDonald, as the Traveller, sang beautifully... while playing a recognizable human being with genuine feeling..."

- ZealNYC

Pish-Tush – The Mikado – Kentucky Opera

"Conor McDonald's Pish-Tush was clever and even."

- Arts Louisville

Cardinal / Priest – Galileo Galilei – Des Moines Metro Opera

"Conor McDonald (Servant/Oracle) impressed with a steady, forward-placed baritone, especially as he intoned a relentless solo passage circling around the action on auto-pilot."

- Opera Today

Malatesta – Don Pasquale – CCM

"Baritone Conor McDonald's Malatesta, who... has the lion's share of the opera's difficult, patter arias, played his enabler role with flair."

-Cincinnati Enquirer

Jesus – St John Passion – CCM

"McDonald as Jesus displayed a warm baritone voice, submitting to his torture meekly but firmly..."

-Music in Cincinnati

Papageno – Die Zauberflöte – CCM

"Baritone Conor McDonald stole the show as Papageno, not only for his fine vocalism, but for his buffo comedic acting and the best diction onstage."

- Music in Cincinnati