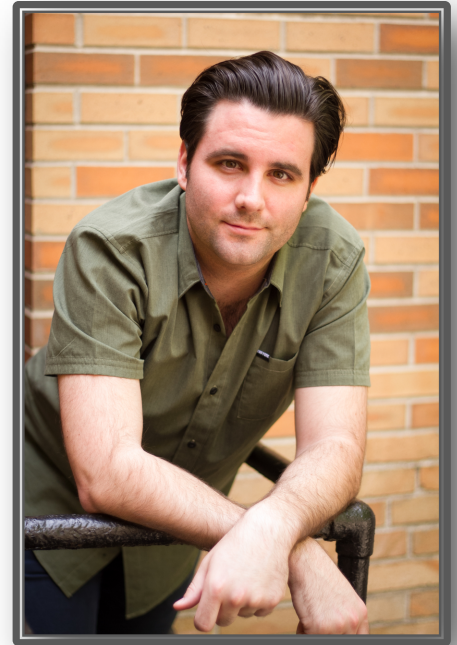


## MACKENZIE WHITNEY

TENOR

Mackenzie Whitney is originally from Janesville, Iowa and is gaining recognition nationwide for his expressive lyric tenor voice. He studies with Bill Schuman at the Academy of Vocal Arts where he received his Artist Diploma. He most recently performed with Madison Opera in the role of Rodolfo in *La bohème*. Additionally, he performed Rodolfo with both the Lakes Area Music Festival and the Academy of Vocal Arts, for which Philly.com reported “Mackenzie Whitney, who sang Rodolfo, has an appealing lyric tenor voice, his upper tones free and of lovely quality. This role suits him well both vocally and dramatically”.

His 2018-2019 season saw the revival of his Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance* with Intermountain Opera, Roméo in *Roméo et Juliette* with Pensacola Opera, joining the Great Falls Symphony in concert, and the Rapides Symphony Orchestra as Alfredo in *La Traviata*. His 2019-2020 season includes *La bohème* with Cleveland Opera Theater, *La Traviata* with Madison Opera, *Roméo et Juliette* with Knoxville Opera, and a holiday concert with the Madison Symphony.



In the 2017-2018 season, Mackenzie made debuts with San Diego Opera as Frederic in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Annapolis Opera as Alfredo in *La Traviata*, returned to Madison Opera as Arcadio in *Florencia en el Amazonas*, and joined the Glyndebourne Festival as the cover of Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*. His 2016-2017 season saw debuts with Hawaii Opera Theatre as Rodolfo in *La bohème*, Opera on the James as the Duke in *Rigoletto*, Utah Opera as Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and Opera Maine as Alfredo in *La Traviata*. Engagements for the 2015-2016 season included Avito in *L'amore dei tre re* and the title role in *Werther* at AVA, along with a company debut with Mill City Summer Opera as Anthony in *Sweeney Todd* and a return to Lakes Area Music Festival to debut the role of Lysander in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Concert appearances included debuts as the Tenor Soloist in Haydn's *Creation* and the Tenor Soloist in Dubois' *Seven Last words of Christ*. He made his company debut with Des Moines Metro Opera in 2015 as Giovanni in *Rappaccini's Daughter*. For this performance, Opera Today reported “young Mackenzie Whitney made a strong case for the infatuated lad with his pliable, impassioned tenor. Throughout the evening, Mr. Whitney revealed fine variety in his declamations, be they defiant, entranced, romantic or delusional, and his handsome figure lent credence to the story. His mezzo forte caressed some key phrases with creamy tone”.

At AVA, Mr. Whitney performed Rodolfo (*La bohème*), the title role in *Faust*, Des Grieux (*Manon*) and Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*). Other roles performed include Tamino (*The Magic Flute*) Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) and Alfred (*Die Fledermaus*). In addition, he was the tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, the Mozart *Requiem*, and the Brahms *Liebeslieder Waltzes*. He was awarded the encouragement award in the Philadelphia District of the 2013 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and was granted an Encouragement Award from the Gerda Lissner Competition. He has participated in young artists programs at Opera New Jersey, Central City Opera, and Oberlin in Italy and holds an Artist Diploma from the Academy of Vocal Arts and a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Northern Iowa.

# MACKENZIE WHITNEY

## TENOR

### Roles

Roméo	Roméo et Juliette	Knoxville Opera	2020
Alfredo	La Traviata	Madison Opera	2019
Rodolfo	La bohème	Cleveland Opera Theater	2019
Alfredo	La Traviata	Rapides Symphony Orchestra	2019
Roméo	Roméo et Juliette	Pensacola Opera	2019
Frederic	The Pirates of Penzance	Intermountain Opera Bozeman	2018
Pinkerton (cover)	Madama Butterfly	Glyndebourne	2018
Rodolfo	La bohème	Opera San Antonio	2018
Arcadio	Florencia en el Amazonas	Madison Opera	2018
Alfredo	La Traviata	Annapolis Opera	2018
Frederic	The Pirates of Penzance	San Diego Opera	2017
Alfredo	La Traviata	Opera Maine	2017
Edgardo	Lucia di Lammermoor	Utah Opera	2017
Il Duca	Rigoletto	Opera on the James	2016
Rodolfo	La bohème	Hawaii Opera Theatre	2016
Lysander	A Midsummer Night's Dream	Lakes Area Music Festival	2016
Anthony	Sweeney Todd	Mill City Summer Opera	2016
Werther	Werther	Academy of Vocal Arts	2016
Avito	L'amore dei tre re	Academy of Vocal Arts	2016
Rodolfo	La bohème	Madison Opera	2015
Rodolfo	La bohème	Lakes Area Music Festival	2015
Giovanni	La Hija de Rappaccini	Des Moines Metro Opera	2015
Faust	Faust	Academy of Vocal Arts	2015
Rodolfo	La bohème	Academy of Vocal Arts	2015
Des Grieux	Manon	Academy of Vocal Arts	2014
Don Ottavio	Don Giovanni	Opera in the Heights	2014
Ferrando	Così fan tutte	Academy of Vocal Arts	2013
Ferrando	Così fan tutte	Oberlin in Italy	2013
Tamino	Die Zauberflöte	UNI Opera Theater	2012
Alfred	Die Fledermaus	UNI Opera Theater	2011

### Concert

Various	Holiday Concert	Madison Symphony	2019
Various	Canzone d'amore	Great Falls Symphony	2018
Haydn	Creation	New Jersey Master Chorale	2016
Dubois	Seven Last Words of Christ	Haddonfield United Methodist Church	2016
Mozart	Requiem	Tenth Presbyterian Church	2015
Britten	Serenade	St. John's Lutheran Church	2014
Victor Herbert	Thine Alone!	Concert Operetta Theater	2013
Rogers & Hammerstein	A Common Thread	Concert Operetta Theater	2013
Handel	Messiah	Tacoma First Baptist Church	2012
Britten	Winter Words	Central City Opera	2012
Brahms	Liebeslieder Waltzes	UNI Concert Chorale	2010
Howells	Requiem	UNI Chamber Singers	2009

## **MACKENZIE WHITNEY**

### **TENOR**

#### **CRITICAL ACCLAIM**

##### **Florencia en el Amazonas – Madison Opera**

"Rachel Sterrenberg and Mackenzie Whitney, as a tightly wound young writer and a restless would-be pilot respectively, inch toward each other in a series of satisfying duets."  
- Lindsay Christians, The Cap Times

##### **Alfredo – La Traviata – Syracuse Opera**

"New to Syracuse Opera, but not new to his role, tenor Mackenzie Whitney plays the love-struck Alfredo. . . he quickly establishes his aptness for the part through fine acting and expressive singing." -Linda Loomis, Syracuse.com

##### **Frederic – The Pirates of Penzance – San Diego Opera**

"Mackenzie Whitney's well-sung Frederic"

- James Chute, Opera News

"Also strong is tenor Mackenzie Whitney, in his company debut as Frederic. He's got a large, ear-pleasing voice and a sunny stage presence"

- Pam Kragen, San Diego Tribune

"The performances here are excellent with beautiful crooning by Whitney."

- Milo Shapiro, StageandCinema.com

"Of course it is young Frederic's ridiculous allegiance to this king and his band that keeps the story moving, and tenor Mackenzie Whitney fulfills this duty vocally and with a display of comic panache. . . Whitney's lyricism managed to bring real pathos to the show's several moments of authentic sentiment, and he was quite fine in his duets with Mabel"

- OperaWest.com

"debuting Mackenzie Whitney, overall, yields grand returns. . . we have a most tender, melodic moment during the amorous repose, "Oh, here is love, here is truth" in concert with Mr. Whitney's Frederic."

- Christie Grimstad, ConcertoNet.com

##### **Alfredo – La Traviata – Maine Opera**

"As Alfredo, young tenor Mackenzie Whitney made a handsome, appropriately naïve lover. He has a bright, warm tone, and his midrange has considerable power. . . His best singing was in the "Parigi, o cara" duet, blending well with Natale to convey the lyrical power of the lovers' emotions."

- Cornelia Iredell, Opera News

"Mackenzie Whitney's portrayal of Alfredo followed a similar trajectory, from flighty and detached to passionate. He has an appealing light tenor, closer to that of, say, Alfredo Kraus than to Luciano Pavarotti, and once he settled into the role, he used it elegantly."

-Allan Kozinn, Portland Press Herald

##### **Pinkerton – Madama Butterfly – Heartbeat Opera**

"the vibrant tenor Mackenzie Whitney"

-Anthony Tommasini, The New York Times

"Mackenzie Whitney's performance as Pinkerton, the entitled and arrogant Lieutenant, may have been a bit over the top, but that just fed into our prior belief as noted above. He sang "Addio fiorito asil" quite well, convincing us that he was just a self-centered lout with his mostly phony remorse. We would love to hear his tenor in a sympathetic role."

-VoceDiMeche

"Tenor Mackenzie Whitney did an excellent job in portraying the crass soldier by mimicking cowboy moves, chugging whiskey and beer, and taking selfies. His sound was exuberant, self-assured and playful. He has a brightness that perfectly suited this fresh faced "Yankee vagabondo" who is enchanted with a new world where he perceives there to be very little at stake and so feels free to act irresponsibly. "Real" life will begin for him upon his return to the States."  
-Allegri con fuoco

"Mackenzie Whitney deserved kudos for his well sung, convincing Pinkerton" - Richard Sasanow, BroadwayWorld.com

"firmly lyrical singing of her Pinkerton" - James Jordan, Observer.com

#### **Edgardo – Lucia di Lammermoor – Utah Opera**

"Edgardo, the man to whom Lucia had pledged her heart, was played in swashbuckling style by tenor Mackenzie Whitney. His luminous tone had plenty of heft to ride the orchestra . . . Whitney and Rethwisch made Edgardo and Lucia a handsome and credible couple."  
-Robert Coleman, Opera News

"Tenor Mackenzie Whitney played Edgardo, Lucia's boyfriend, who is, of course, also her family's sworn enemy; he sang with power and ardor."  
-Catherine Reese Newton, Salt Lake Tribune

#### **Anthony – Sweeney Todd – Mill City Summer Opera**

"Mackenzie Whitney has a believable naivete and a delicate touch with a ballad as the lovestruck sailor Anthony."  
-Rob Hubbard, Pioneer Press

#### **Giovanni – Rappaccini's Daughter – Des Moines Metro Opera**

"The role of Giovanni is the evening's biggest "sing," as he never leaves the stage. Happily, young Mackenzie Whitney made a strong case for the infatuated lad with his pliable, impassioned tenor. Throughout the evening, Mr. Whitney revealed fine variety in his declamations, be they defiant, entranced, romantic or delusional, and his handsome figure lent credence to the story. His top voice was happiest at mezzo forte where he caressed some key phrases with creamy tone. . . his was a commanding role assumption."  
-James Sohre, Opera Today

#### **Rodolfo – La bohème – Madison Opera**

"Rodolfo, sung with a bright, lively tenor by Mackenzie Whitney, dreams of success as a writer."  
-Lindsay Christians, The Capitol Times

"Fragile Mimi, sung by soprano Eleni Calenos, croons sweet nothings that blend harmoniously with Whitney's vibrant tenor. The two shine brightest when performing their duets which, as the production draws to a close, becomes a haunting reminder that their love cannot die."  
-Amanda Finn, Broadwayworld.com

"As Mimi's lover, Rodolfo, Mackenzie Whitney displays a high lyric tenor voice of just the right timbre."  
-John W. Barker, Madison Isthmus

#### **Rodolfo – La bohème – Academy of Vocal Arts**

"Mackenzie Whitney, who sang Rodolfo, has an appealing lyric tenor voice, his upper tones generally free and of lovely quality. . . this role suits him well both vocally and dramatically"  
-Diana Burgwyn, Philly.com