ARTIST MANAGEMENT

CALVIN GRIFFIN

BASS-BARITONE

Calvin Griffin, a native of Columbus, Ohio, is a recent alum of the Florida Grand Opera studio where he made his debut stepping in as a cover to sing Escamillo in Bizet's *Carmen*. In addition, he sang Zaretsky and covered Gremin in *Eugene Onegin*, sang Victor in *Before Night Falls*, and Samuel in *Un ballo in maschera* with the company. Mr. Griffin recently finished a stint with the Arizona Opera Studio where he performed the roles of the Captain in *Florencia en el Amazonas*, Zuniga in *Carmen*, Pistola in *Falstaff*, Count Ceprano in *Rigoletto*, Zaretsky in *Eugene Onegin*, Speaker/2nd Armored Man in *Die Zauberflöte*, Hortensius in *La fille du régiment*, Colline in *La bohème*, and Dr. Grenville in *La traviata*.

Last season, he returned to the Richmond Symphony for Handel's *Messiah*, Florida Grand Opera as the title character in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Minnesota Opera as Eddie in *The Fix*, and returned to Wolf Trap Opera as Bartolo in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Gomez in *L'heure espagnole*. The 2019-2020 season includes the title role in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Florentine Opera and singing Brühlmann and covering Lesbo in *Werther* in his Metropolitan Opera debut.

In a busy 2017 -2018 season, Mr. Griffin made exciting debuts with Atlanta Opera as Mother in *The Seven Deadly Sins*, Opera Birmingham as Escamillo in *Carmen*, Opera on the James as Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, and Opera Orlando as Alidoro in *La Cenerentola*. Additionally, he returned to Arizona Opera to sing Dr. Bartolo in *Il barbiere di Siviglia,* Atlanta Opera as Morales in *Carmen,* and debuted with Minnesota Opera as the Potter's Assistant in *Fellow Travelers.* In concert, he sang Handel's *Messiah* with the Richmond Symphony and Bach's *Mass in B minor* with Gloria Musicae in Sarasota, Florida. In the summer of 2017, Mr. Griffin returned to the Glimmerglass Festival as Elviro in *Xerxes* and the Undertaker in *Porgy and Bess*. The previous season at Glimmerglass, he sang Fabrizio and covered Gottardo in *La gazza ladra* and covered the title role in *Sweeney Todd*. In 2015, Mr. Griffin returned as an Apprentice Artist to Santa Fe Opera where his assignments included Count Ceprano in *Rigoletto* and Hortensius in *La fille du régiment*. Mr. Griffin sang the title role in *Gianni Schicchi* at the Aspen Music Festival, and he covered the role of Leporello in *Don Giovanni* as an Apprentice Artist at Des Moines Metro Opera. He was a Studio Artist at The Wolf Trap Opera Company, as well as a participant at the Brevard Music Festival.

Mr. Griffin made his Richmond Symphony debut as the bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah* and his Houston Symphony debut as First Apprentice in *Wozzeck*. He performed the baritone solos in Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem* at Ohio State University and Worthington United Methodist Church and was the bass soloist in Mozart's *Requiem* at Terra Community College and the bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah* at Bluffton University.

Mr. Griffin was the 2015 winner of the Igor Gorin Memorial Award. He was awarded a Western Region Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Encouragement Award in 2014, 1st Place winner in the Tuesday Musical Club Competition in San Antonio in 2012, 1st Place winner in the Hal Leonard Vocal Competition in 2011, and a Central Region Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Encouragement Award in 2010. He was also a winner in the Cincinnati College-Conservatory's Corbett Competition and was awarded the Linda Candler Award at the Brevard Music Center.

Mr. Griffin received his Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music under the tutelage of Dr. Stephen King. There, he was seen in the title role of John Musto's *Volpone* as well as Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* and Polinesso in *Ariodante*. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from Ohio State University where he performed the roles of Superintendent Budd in *Albert Herring*, Bartolo in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and Gustavo in *Faramondo*.

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BASS-BARITONE

ROLES PERFORMED

Brühlmann; Lesbo cover	*Werther*	Metropolitan Opera	2020
Figaro	*Le nozze di Figaro*	Florentine Opera	2019
Gomez	*L'heure espagnole*	Wolf Trap Opera	2019
Dr. Bartolo	*Il barbiere di Siviglia*	Wolf Trap Opera	2019
Eddie	*The Fix*	Minnesota Opera	2019
Figaro	*Le nozze di Figaro*	Florida Grand Opera	2019
Potter's Assistant	*Fellow Travelers*	Minnesota Opera	2018
Morales	*Carmen*	Atlanta Opera	2018
Alidoro	*La cenerentola*	Opera Orlando	2018
Dr. Bartolo	*Il barbiere di Siviglia*	Arizona Opera	2018
Escamillo	*Carmen*	Opera Birmingham	2018
Mother	*The Seven Deadly Sins*	Atlanta Opera	2017
Leporello	*Don Giovanni*	Opera on the James	2017
Elviro	*Xerxes*	Glimmerglass Festival	2017
Sam	*Un ballo in maschera*	Florida Grand Opera	2017
Victor	*Before Night Falls*	Florida Grand Opera	2017
Zaretsky	*Eugene Onegin*	Florida Grand Opera	2017
Escamillo	*Carmen*	Florida Grand Opera	2016
Sweeney Todd (cover)	*Sweeney Todd*	Glimmerglass Festival	2016
Fabrizio	*La gazza ladra*	Glimmerglass Festival	2016
Podesta (cover)	*La gazza ladra*	Glimmerglass Festival	2016
Pistola	*Falstaff*	Arizona Opera	2016
Colline	*La bohème*	Opera Columbus/Arizona Opera	2016/2014
Zuniga	*Carmen*	Arizona Opera	2016
Prince Gremin (cover)	*Eugene Onegin*	Arizona Opera	2015
Captain	*Florencia en el Amazonas*	Arizona Opera	2015
Hortensius	*La fille du régiment*	Arizona Opera/Santa Fe Opera	2015
Count Ceprano	*Rigoletto*	Arizona Opera/Santa Fe Opera	2015
Speaker/2nd Armored Man	*Die Zauberflöte*	Arizona Opera	2015
Notary	*Don Pasquale*	Arizona Opera/Santa Fe Opera	2014
Dr. Grenville	*La traviata*	Arizona Opera	2014
First Apprentice	*Wozzeck*	Houston Symphony Orchestra	2013
Polinesso	*Ariodante*	Rice University	2013
Leporello (cover)	*Don Giovanni*	Des Moines Metro Opera	2012
Volpone	*Volpone*	Rice University	2012
Villains (cover study)	*Les contes d'Hoffmann*	Wolf Trap Studio	2011
Figaro (cover)	*Le nozze di Figaro*	Ohio State University	2009

Concert

Soloist	*Opera Swings Jazz* Concert	Opera Columbus	2019
Soloist	Handel: *Messiah*	Richmond Symphony	2018; '17
Soloist	Bach: *B Minor Mass*	Gloria Musicae	2017

Training

Young Artist	Florida Grand Opera	2016-2017
Young Artist	Glimmerglass Festival	2016, 2017
Studio Artist	Arizona Opera	2013-2016
Apprentice Artist	Santa Fe Opera	2014, 2015
Opera Center	Aspen Music Festival	2013
Apprentice Artist	Des Moines Metro Opera	2012, 2010
Studio Artist	Wolf Trap Opera	2011

CALVIN GRIFFIN

BASS-BARITONE

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Figaro – *Le nozze di Figaro* – Florentine Opera

"As Figaro, bass-baritone Calvin Griffin delivered a performance that could have been on any opera stage in the world. He sang with a sturdy and even sound from the top to the bottom of his voice and brought colorful diction and easy freedom to the part." -Shepherd Express

"Bass Calvin Griffin inhabits the title role with good-natured humor and comic ease. He sings with a warm, focused sound and creates a thoroughly likable character." -Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel

Bartolo – *Il barbiere di Siviglia* – Wolf Trap Opera

"Not to be outdone, bass-baritone Calvin Griffin who played Dr. Bartolo made his presence felt each time he was upon the stage, once singing falsetto for comic effect to everyone's surprise and delight. . . this was a break out performance for Mr. Griffin." -OperaGene.com

"Her foil as Bartolo, bass-baritone Calvin Griffin, was equal in comic bluster. He made the daring choice to sing the old-fashioned aria "Quando mi sei vicina" entirely in falsetto during the music lesson scene in Act II."
-Washington Classical Review

"Griffin consistently moved with the gate of an old man, however his vivacity couldn't be masked as he passionately and furiously spat "A un dottor dell mia sorte," a rendition that contrasted heavily with his high-pitched falsetto after Rosina's "Contro un cor," reminiscent of a castrato of the time. Griffin epitomized the necessity of a comedy – a villain that all can love to hate." -MD Theatre Guide

Figaro – *Le nozze di Figaro* – Florida Grand Opera

"Griffin was a cunning and athletic schemer as the palace's jack of all trades. With his voluminous bass-baritone, Griffin registered Figaro's anger when he thinks Susanna has betrayed him and brought showmanship to his mock military dressing down of Cherubino in "Non piu andrai." -South Florida Classical Review

"Calvin Griffin and Elena Galván are marvelous as Figaro and Susanna, around whom the plot revolves, bringing chemistry and fine comedic timing. . . Griffin's character is no servant but self-assured and convinced of his noble birth, with a voice penetrating and powerful as Figaro mockingly sends Cherubino off to join the Count's regiment in 'Non più andrai'; and he later bemoans how badly men are treated by women." -ClassicalSource.com

Escamillo – *Tragedy of Carmen* – Opera Birmingham

"Bass-baritone Calvin Griffin, as the dapper toreador Escamillo, sang with equal conviction." -Artsbham.com

"The cast was layered with grand performances. Calvin Griffin as the dashing matador, Escamillo."
-Broadway World

***The Seven Deadly Sins* – Atlanta Opera**

"Calvin Griffin, whose lush bass stood out in the titular song from *Lost in the Stars*" -Schmopera

Elvino – *Xerxes* – Glimmerglass Festival

"The servant Elvino was performed with gusto by Calvin Griffin. We enjoyed his Leporello-like antics and his fine singing."
-Taminophile

Victor – *Before Night Falls* – Florida Grand Opera
"The young American bass-baritone Calvin Griffin, as Arenas's nemesis Victor, also turned in a terrific performance. He has a big, commanding instrument that he can use with real menace. He was at all times the rigid ideologue and unchecked power glutton, except for one moment of tenderness as he talked about the beauty of Arenas's writing before burning the writer's latest manuscript, stolen from his apartment, in front of him." -Palm Beach Arts Paper

"Brillante el Víctor de Griffin que, en mi opinión, se robó el show." / "The brilliant portrayal of Victor by Griffin, in my opinion, stole the show" -el Nuevo Herald

"The revolutionary leader Victor, sung by the bass-baritone Calvin Griffin, is in a way more subtly drawn than Arenas. Neither overwritten nor overacted, he is made more malevolent by being more believable, a subtle portrait of a ruthless man who respects Arenas and his work but is willing to ruin lives and to kill "to protect revolution.""-South Florida Classical Review

"outstanding cast . . . Just as impressive were bass-baritone Calvin Griffin as the military tormentor"
-Opera News

Soloist – *Best of Bach Concert* – The Sarasota-Manatee Bach Festival
"Taking on character and a most secular stage presence, Griffin wowed us with his compelling voice. The music shined with trumpet runs that ripped up into the heavens. What a burst of sunshine!" -Herald-Tribune

Escamillo – *Carmen* – Florida Grand Opera
"Calvin Griffin, bringing a darkly lustrous voice to the toreador's final duet with Carmen." -South Florida Classical Review

Captain – *Florencia en el Amazonas* – Arizona Opera
"Lyric bass baritone Calvin Griffin sang the role with a smooth dark voice as he commanded his beleaguered ship."
-Opera Today

"And as the Captain, bass-baritone Calvin Griffin once again shows off the powerful pipes..."-AZCentral

Dappertutto – *Les contes d'Hoffmann* (Scene Program) – Santa Fe Opera
"Bass Calvin Griffin as Dappertutto sang "Scintille diamant" as well as we have ever heard it--with a great deal of menace."
-Voce di meche

Hortensius – *La fille du regiment* – Arizona Opera
"Arizona Opera Young Artist Program member Calvin Griffin has become a valuable member of the company. A lithe and limber comedian, he made an attentive Hortensius." -Opera Today

Colline – *La bohème* – Arizona Opera
"...powerful vocal performance of tenor Borichevsky and bass-baritone Calvin Griffin, another member of the opera's artists residence program." -Arizona Daily Star

***Gianni Schicchi* – Aspen Music Festival**
"As Schicchi, Calvin Griffin had the panache to make a plausible con man, and deployed a resonant lyric baritone that suited his suave approach to the character. His stage presence held the center against a motley crew of avaricious relatives roiling about him." -Seen and Heard International

Gustavo – *Faramondo* – The Ohio State University
"But the one God-given world-class voice on the stage belonged to Mr. Griffin." -WOSU Radio