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YI LI

TENOR

Proving himself a formidable talent and a rising star to watch in the opera world, Tenor Yi Li is quickly gaining attention across the globe. Recently, Mr. Li debuted the role of Cheng Quing in Meredith Monk's **ATLAS** with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and moved into bigger repertoire — debuting the role of Dick Johnson in **La fanciulla del West** in Maryland Lyric Opera's inaugural season. He subsequently returned there as Edgardo in **Lucia di Lammermoor** and Turiddu/Luigi in **Cavalleria rusticana/Il tabarro**, as well as to The Metropolitan Opera as the Young Lover in **Il tabarro**.

Last season, Mr. Li returned to Opera Tampa as Rodolfo in **La bohème** and he reprised his Fenton in **Falstaff** for his house debut with Portland Opera. This season he makes his Opera Orlando debut as Rodolfo. Recently, he joined Hawaii Opera Theatre to reprise his Rodolfo and to sing Canio in **Pagliacci**; he also reprised Tan Dun's **Buddha Passion** with the National Academy of Saint Cecilia in Rome. He returned to Maryland Lyric Opera as Fenton in **Falstaff** and Cassio in **Otello**, he performed **Buddha Passion** with the Seattle Symphony, he rejoined the China Now Music Festival in partnership with Bard College, he sang Handel's **Messiah** with the Naples Philharmonic, and he sang Luigi in **Il tabarro** with On Site Opera.



Other operatic engagements include a return to Maryland Lyric Opera for **Turandot** – singing Pang and covering Calaf; joining the China Now Music Festival as Danny in **An American Soldier**; a house debut at Opera Tampa as Turiddu in **Cavalleria rusticana**; the role of Nadir in **Les pêcheurs de perles** with Toledo Opera; Nicias in **Thaïs** with China National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing; Don Ottavio in **Don Giovanni** with Opera Montana, Nashville Opera, and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra; Cassio in **Otello** at The National Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing; Alfredo in **La traviata** with Finger Lakes Opera; and his performance in Huang Ruo's innovative contemporary opera, **Paradise Interrupted**. Mr. Li has also joined the esteemed roster of The Metropolitan Opera for productions of **Manon Lescaut**, **Roméo et Juliette**, and **Der fliegende Holländer**.

Concert engagements include **Angel Island Oratorio** at the Santa Fe Opera, the tenor soloist in Beethoven's **Symphony No. 9** at Jackson Symphony, Mahler's **Symphony No. 8** with Canterbury Chorale at Carnegie Hall, Indianapolis Opera's **Rising Stars Concert**, and a Chinese New Year Concert with Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra at The Kennedy Center.

Mr. Li is an alum of Washington National Opera's revered Cafritz Young Artist Program, where his assignments included Rodolfo in **La bohème** and productions of **Die Zauberflöte** and **Dialogues des Carmélites**. At San Francisco Opera's world-renowned Merola Opera Program, assignments included Belfiore in **La finta giardiniera**, Smith in Bizet's **La jolie fille de Perth**, and Lionel in **Martha**.

Mr. Li's training includes an Artist Diploma in Voice from University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music (CCM), where he performed Tamino in **Die Zauberflöte**, Don Ottavio in **Don Giovanni**, and Ruggero in **La rondine**. During his time there, he also performed the Duke in **Rigoletto** at Cincinnati Opera and Don



José in ***Carmen*** at the CCM Spoleto Festival. He also holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Sichuan Conservatory in China, where performances include Alfredo in ***La traviata***, Pinkerton in ***Madama Butterfly***, Rodolfo in ***La bohème***, and Cavaradossi in ***Tosca***.

Finding success on the emerging artist competition circuit, Yi Li's talent has been recognized by several elite foundations and organizations. Mr. Li was a Grand Final Winner of the Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition, a finalist at Operalia: The World Opera Competition, Winner of the Sullivan Musical Foundation Award, China's representative at the Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, 3rd Prize at the Gerda Lissner Foundation International Vocal Competition, Finalist in the 49th International Singing Competition of Toulouse, and he won the Grand Prize in the Opera Columbus Irma M. Cooper Vocal Competition and CCM's Corbett Scholarship Competition. He also received a grant from Giulio Gari Foundation and performed at their annual gala.

Current as of June 1, 2025