ANDREW OAKDEN

baritone

Baritone Andrew Oakden continues to garner critical acclaim in opera houses across the United States and will make his New York City Opera mainstage debut performing the roles of Alfio ***CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA*** and Tonio ***PAGLIACCI*** in the fall of 2007. He is a graduate of Indiana University School of Music where he studied with Virginia Zeani and Timothy Noble. While in Indiana Mr. Oakden performed various leading roles including the title role in ***RIGOLETTO***, Enrico ***LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR***, and Germont ***LA TRAVIATA.*** Of his performance of Germont, Peter Jacobi of the Herald Times wrote: *"Oakden's voice has gained richness and threatens to become what the world has few of: a resonant Verdi baritone. He's not all the way there yet, but he's closing in on that sparsely populated vocal region."*

This past winter he sang several performances of Marcello ***LA BOHEME*** and covered Francesco ***I MASNADIERI*** (Verdi) with Sarasota Opera. He recently made his Ft. Worth Symphony debut in the role of Papageno ***DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE.***

In 2005, he performed the Mandarin ***TURANDOT*** and Pietro ***SIMON BOCCANEGRA*** at Santa Fe Opera, and Alfio ***CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA*** and Tonio ***PAGLIACCI*** at Sarasota Opera where he additionally covered Stankar in Verdi's ***STIFFELIO***. Following his success as Tonio at Sarasota Opera, The Sunday Telegraph (London) wrote: *"…the unexpected thrill of a young baritone, Andrew Oakden, stepping in at a moment's notice into the role of Tonio and bringing the house down with his superb singing of the prologue…Oakden is a name to note."*

At Indianapolis Opera, Mr. Oakden both sang Marullo and covered the title role in ***RIGOLETTO,*** and subsequently covered Germont ***LA TRAVIATA.*** For Janiec Opera Theater, he sang Sharpless ***MADAMA BUTTERFLY*** and Germont ***LA TRAVIATA***.

Mr. Oakden has participated in Young Artist Programs with Minnesota Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Aspen Music Festival, and Sarasota Opera. He has worked with James Conlon, Tito Capobianco, Corrado Rovaris, Imre Pallo, Sherrill Milnes, David Effron, and Alan Gilbert.

Earlier this year, Mr. Oakden was the 1st Prize Winner in the Palm Beach Opera Vocal Competition as well as being a recent finalist in both the regional Metropolitan Opera Competition and the 2005 MacAllister Awards. Upcoming engagements include Alfio ***CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA*** and Tonio ***PAGLIACCI*** with Virginia Opera, and covering Fiorello ***IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA*** and Wagner ***FAUST*** for The Metropolitan Opera.

ROBERT GILDER
& COMPANY
91 Great Russell Street
London WC1B 3PS
Tel: 44-20-7580-7758
Fax: 44-20-7580-7739
E: rgilder@robert-gilder.com

889 Ninth Avenue, 2nd Floor
New York, NY 10019
Tel: 212-397-5299 (x25)
Fax: 212-397-7920
E: rgilder@pinnaclearts.com

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