



## LEVI HERNANDEZ

### BARITONE

With a velvety tone and a stage presence which exudes confidence and charm, baritone **Levi Hernandez** is gaining momentum as a sought after artist on the operatic stage. Mark Thomson Ketterson of Opera News declared of his principal debut with Lyric Opera of Chicago as Dandini in *La cenerentola*, "Young baritone Levi Hernandez's intelligent Dandini displayed a most impressive knack for subtle text-painting within a pristinely negotiated coloratura line..."

Recently the El Paso native made his Houston Grand Opera debut as Sharpless in *Madame Butterfly* next to Ana Maria Martinez and Joseph

Calleja; he also joined the rosters of San Francisco Opera and the Metropolitan Opera in their productions of Puccini's *Trittico* and *Fanciulla del West*. Last season marked his European debut in Komische Oper Berlin of *Pique Dame* in the role of Tomski. Additionally he sang Sharpless in *Madame Butterfly* with Virginia Opera, Lake George Opera and Cedar Rapids Opera. This summer he'll make his Opera Theater of St. Louis as Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, and will return to Opera North as Dandini in *La cenerentola*. In the 2011-12 season Levi sings Tobias Mill in Rossini's *La Cambiale di Matrimonio* with Opera Omaha and reprises the role of Sharpless in *Madame Butterfly* with Minnesota Opera and Intermountain Opera. He appears in concert singing Handel's *Messiah* with the Phoenix Symphony and the Pennsylvania Ballet. The 2012-2013 season features a return to the Metropolitan Opera roster, and Sharpless in *Butterfly* at Nashville Opera.

Other recent engagements include Valentin in *Faust* with The Kalamazoo Symphony, and his return to Los Angeles Opera as Don Lucas in *Luisa Fernanda*. Engagements for the 2007-2008 season included Marcello in San Antonio Opera's *La bohème*, Schaunard in Lyric Opera of Chicago's *La bohème*, appearances with Cheyenne Symphony for the *Messiah*, and Sciarrone in *Tosca* and Crébillon in *La rondine* with Los Angeles Opera. Engagements for 2008-2009 included Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly* with Opera Colorado, a return to Los Angeles for Spinelloccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, a concert appearance at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre.

A recent alumnus of the Lyric Opera center for American Artists Mr. Hernandez made his Lyric Opera mainstage debut during the 2004-05. During his tenure at Lyric he was also seen as Marullo in *Rigoletto*, Sciarrone in *Tosca*, the Innkeeper in *Manon Lescaut*, and the Bartender in the world premiere of William Bolcom's *A Wedding*. A versatile actor as well as a fine singer Hernandez portrayed the title role in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* at the 2004 Grant Park Music Festival. Other career highlights include Marcello *La bohème* for El Paso Opera, Papageno with *Madison Opera* in their *Die Zauberflöte*, performances in Boston Lyric Opera's productions of *Carmen* and *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, and Count Ceprano in *Rigoletto*, Moralès in *Carmen*, and Haly in *L'italiana in Algeri*, all with Opera Company of Philadelphia.

Mr. Hernandez has been seen on the concert stage as a soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with Charlotte Symphony and Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the Pennsylvania Ballet. A 2002 Metropolitan Opera National Council Awards finalist his many awards include a Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation grant as well as being a 2002 OPERALIA competition finalist. After receiving his undergraduate degree at Westminster Choir College Mr. Hernandez attended the prestigious Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia where he performed a number of leading roles including Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Marcello in *La bohème*, Ford in *Falstaff*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, Vicar in *Albert Herring* and Falke in *Die Fledermaus*.

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**BARITONE**

**OPERA**

Papageno	<i>The Magic Flute</i>	Opera Theatre of St. Louis	2014
Sharpless	<i>Madame Butterfly</i>	Nashville Opera	2012
Sharpless	<i>Madame Butterfly</i>	Intermountain Opera	2012
Sharpless	<i>Madame Butterfly</i>	Minnesota Opera	2012
Tobias Mill	<i>La cambiale di Matrimonio</i>	Opera Omaha	2012
Dandidni	<i>La cenerentola</i>	Opera North	2011
Leoporello	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Opera Theatre of Saint Louis	2011
Sharpless	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Virginia Opera	2011
Sid (c)	<i>La Fanciulla del West</i>	Metropolitan Opera	2010
Marcello	<i>La boheme</i>	Opera North	2010
Tomski	<i>Pique Dame</i>	Komische Opera Berlin	2010
Sharpless	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Houston Grand Opera	2010
Gianni Schicchi (c)	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	San Francisco Opera	2009
Sharpless	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Lake George Opera	2009
Yamadori	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Opera Colorado	2008
Spinelloccio	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	Los Angeles Opera	2008
Sciarrone	<i>Tosca</i>	Los Angeles Opera	2008
Crébillon	<i>La Rondine</i>	Los Angeles Opera	2008
Schaunard	<i>La boheme</i>	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2007
Marcello	<i>La boheme</i>	San Antonio Opera	2007
Don Lucas	<i>Luisa Fernanda</i>	Los Angeles Opera	2007
Valentin	<i>Faust</i>	Kalamazoo Symphony	2007
Mercurio/Console	<i>L'Incoronazione di Poppea</i>	Los Angeles Opera	2006
Germont	<i>La traviata</i>	El Paso Opera	2006
Papageno	<i>Die Zauberflote</i>	Madison Opera	2006
Marcello	<i>La boheme</i>	El Paso Opera	2005
Dandini	<i>La Cenerentola</i>	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2005
Marullo	<i>Rigoletto</i>	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2006
Papageno (c)	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2005
Sharpless (c)	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2004
Gianni Schicchi	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	Grant Park Music Festival	2004
Morales	<i>Carmen</i>	Opera Company of Philadelphia	2002
Haly	<i>L'italiana in Algeri</i>	Opera Company of Philadelphia	2000
Morales	<i>Carmen</i>	Boston Lyric Opera	2002
Figaro	<i>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Academy of Vocal Arts	2002
Ford	<i>Falstaff</i>	Academy of Vocal Arts	2001
Guglielmo	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Academy of Vocal Arts	2000

**CONCERT**

Soloist	<i>Five Mystical Songs</i>	Grant Park Music Festival	2012
Soloist	<i>Messiah</i>	El Paso Symphony	2012
Soloist	<i>Messiah</i>	Pennsylvania Ballet Company	2008/12
Soloist	<i>Messiah</i>	Phoenix Symphony	2011
Soloist	<i>Messiah</i>	Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra	2008
Soloist	<i>Carmina Burana</i>	Pennsylvania Ballet Company	2007
Soloist	<i>Carmina Burana</i>	Cheyenne Symphony Orchestra	2007
Soloist	<i>Carmina Burana</i>	Pennsylvania Ballet Company	2003
Soloist	<i>Trees</i>	Philadelphia Choral Arts Society	2002

**EDUCATION/TRAINING**

Lyric Opera Center for American Artist 2003-2006  
 Academy of Vocal Arts 1998-2002  
 Westminster Choir College BM/Vocal Performance 1998  
 Franz Liszt Hochschule; Weimar, Germany summer 1996

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**Recent Critical Acclaim**

**Opera Omaha – La cambiale di Matrimonio**

“As the determined but clueless father, baritone Hernandez was obviously having fun. He sang with bumbling earnestness and blustering bravado, both of which let him establish an immediate and easy rapport with the audience. Whether wrestling with maps or coming to the realization that he might be on the losing side of a duel, he easily owned some of the production’s funniest moments.”

- *Omaha World-Herald*

**Opera Theater of St. Louis – Don Giovanni**

"Levi Hernandez has all the goods for a fine Leporello, mind you, showing us good buffo sensibilities and a solid bass.”

- *Opera Today*

"Levi Hernandez's oafish Leporello came close to stealing the show.”

- *The Chicago Tribune*

“Levi Hernandez wraps a buttery baritone and fine comic sensibility around the part of Leporello.”

- *River Front Times*

“Levi Hernandez, one of the rookies, was a glorious standout as Leporello, the servant to Don Giovanni. As both a singer and an actor, the baritone was spot-on, and his sidekick characterization, part Gabby Hayes and part Sancho Panza, was entertaining from start to finish.”

- *St Louis Eat and Drinks*

“As his manservant Leporello, baritone Levi Hernandez frequently came close to stealing the show, with a big, well-produced voice and fine comic timing.”

- *St. Louis Today*

**Houston Grand Opera – Madame Butterfly**

“Another HGO debutant, baritone Levi Hernandez, realized all of the diverse facets of Sharpless — jovial comrade, scandalized but helpless witness and, ultimately, the conscience of the opera.”

- *Opera News*

“Levi Hernandez's dark timbre and wary air make him a perfect Sharpless, the consul who must offer unheeded warnings to reckless Pinkerton, then later, bring woeful tidings to poor Butterfly.”

- *Houston Chronicles*

“...baritone Levi Hernandez made a strong impression as Sharpless, the American consul who warns Pinkerton not to trifle with Butterfly's feelings. Hernandez, a native of El Paso, Texas, has a wonderfully mellow and burnished sound that aided his sympathetic portrayal”

- *Moose Jaw Times-Herald*

**Lake George Opera – *Madama Butterfly***

“Really singing off the words in a secure, beautifully modulated baritone, Levi Hernandez made an expressive, sympathetic Sharpless.”

-*Opera News*

“Baritone Levi Hernandez as Sharpless was super-fine as the US Counsel.”

-*Berkshirefinearts.com*

**Madison Opera – *Die Zauberflote***

"...with top marks going to baritone Hernandez for his ribald interpretation of Papageno. Hernandez's sly humor and warm personality added an engaging dimension to his character as an everyman caught up in a web of fantastic events."

-*The Capital Times*, 2006

“Baritone Levi Hernandez displayed rustic charm, energy, and apparent spontaneity in his comical maneuverings.”

-*State Journal*, 2006

**Lyric Opera of Chicago – *La Cenerentola***

“Levi Hernandez, deputized from the Lyric Opera Center to replace Corbelli as Dandini, the servant as prince, preened and pranced behind his Wayne Newton mustache like the gifted young comedian he is, with accomplished singing to match.”

-*Chicago Tribune*, 2005

“Levi Hernandez, in his final year as a member of the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists training program, was an equally adept Dandini. Reveling in his foppish getup, absurdly proud of the slightly undersized top hat perched on his greatly oversized cloud of hair, he was the essence of a self-satisfied royal toff.”

-*Chicago Sun-Times*, 2005

