



JESSE BLUMBERG

BARITONE

Baritone **Jesse Blumberg** is an artist equally at home on opera, concert, and recital stages. Engagements for the 2010-2011 season included a busy season of recitals in addition to a return to Minnesota Opera as Mr. Lockwood in *Wuthering Heights*, Poliferno in *Niobe*, *Queen of Thebes* with the Boston Early Music Festival and a debut appearance with the New York Festival of Song. The current season sees him as Tom Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath* with Anchorage Opera, a return to the New York Festival of Song for a reprise of the popular *Manning the Canon: Songs of Gay Life*, and various concert and recital appearances the United States and France. Other recent engagements include the role of the Celebrant in Bernstein's *Mass* at London's Royal Festival Hall under the baton of Marin Alsop, Harlekin in *Ariadne auf Naxos* with Boston Lyric Opera, and recitals in Paris with the Mirror Visions Ensemble. Jesse created the role of Connie Rivers in Ricky Ian Gordon's world premiere opera *The Grapes of Wrath* at The Minnesota Opera, and later made his Utah and Pittsburgh Opera debuts in the same production. In June of 2009, he made his Boston Early Music Festival debut, performing Adonis in *Venus and Adonis* and Mercurio in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*. Other recent

operatic highlights include his debut with Opera Delaware as John Brooke in *Little Women* and the role of Silvio in Annapolis Opera's production of *Pagliacci*. For his performance in the title role of Monteverdi's *Return of Ulysses* with Opera Vivente, the Baltimore Sun raved, "Jesse Blumberg commanded the stage, physically and vocally...lighting up the hall with his every appearance." His other operatic roles performed include Figaro in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, Aeneas in *Dido and Aeneas*, Paquillo in *La Perichole*, and Pish-Tush in *The Mikado*.

On the concert stage, Mr. Blumberg appears regularly with American Bach Soloists and recently performed Handel's *Messiah* with the Charlotte Symphony and the University Musical Society in Ann Arbor. He has been a featured soloist with Sacred Music in a Sacred Space, the Los Angeles Master Chorale at Walt Disney Concert Hall, and at the Berkshire Choral Festival. He has given the world premieres of two important chamber works, Ricky Ian Gordon's *Green Sneakers* and Lisa Bielawa's *The Lay of the Love and Death*, the former at the Vail Valley Music Festival and the latter at Alice Tully Hall. He has also toured with the Waverly Consort and the Mark Morris Dance Group, and has been a guest artist with the Jupiter Symphony Chamber Players. As a member of the roster of the Marilyn Horne Foundation, Mr. Blumberg performed an *On Wings of Song* recital with pianist Martin Katz, which has since been heard around the nation on various radio broadcasts. He performed *Die schöne Müllerin* at the Austrian Embassy, as well as a recital of songs by Hugo Wolf, described by the Washington Post as "no less than revelatory." As a member of Mirror Visions Ensemble, he collaborates with many prominent song composers and performs annually in New York City and Paris.

Mr. Blumberg has participated in young artist programs at The Santa Fe Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, the Ravinia Festival, and Chicago Opera Theater. He has been recognized in several competitions, and was awarded Third Prize at the 2008 International Robert Schumann Competition in Zwickau, becoming its first American prizewinner in over thirty years. In 2007 he took first prizes in the International Hilde Zadek Singing Competition in Vienna and the National Federation of Music Clubs Young Artist Competition.

Mr. Blumberg received a Master of Music degree from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and received undergraduate degrees in History and Music from the University of Michigan. He is also the founder and artistic director of Five Boroughs Music Festival, a new concert series in New York City.

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The Husband	<i>Positions 1956</i> (world premiere)	Urban Arias	2012
Tom Joad	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	Anchorage Opera	2011
Poliferno	<i>Niobe, Queen of Thebes</i>	Boston Early Music Festival	2011
Mr. Lockwood	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	The Minnesota Opera	2011
Harlekin	<i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i>	Boston Lyric Opera	2010
Adonis	<i>Venus and Adonis</i>	Boston Early Music Festival	2009
Mercurio	<i>L'incoronazione di Poppea</i>	Boston Early Music Festival	2009
Silvio	<i>Pagliacci</i>	Annapolis Opera	2009
Connie Rivers, Tom Joad (c)	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	Pittsburgh Opera	2009
John Brooke	<i>Little Women</i>	Opera Delaware	2008
Connie Rivers	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	Utah Symphony and Opera	2007
Ulysses	<i>The Return of Ulysses to His Homeland</i>	Opera Vivente	2007
Connie Rivers	<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> (world premiere)	The Minnesota Opera	2007
Papageno (c)	<i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	The Santa Fe Opera	2006
Dancaïro (c)	<i>Carmen</i>	The Santa Fe Opera	2006
Figaro	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Rockland Opera	2006
Aeneas (c)	<i>Dido and Aeneas</i>	Chicago Opera Theater	2006
Hotel Waiter	<i>Death in Venice</i>	Glimmerglass Opera	2005
Papageno	<i>The Magic Flute</i>	Milwaukee Opera Theatre	2005
Archibald Grosvenor (c)	<i>Patience</i>	Glimmerglass Opera	2004
Sonora, Happy, Bello, Sid (c)	<i>La Fanciulla del West</i>	Glimmerglass Opera	2004

Concert/Recital

Walton <i>Belshazzar's Feast</i>	Georgia Symphony	2012
Handel <i>Messiah</i>	American Bach Soloists	2011
<i>Manning the Canon: Songs of Gay Life</i>	New York Festival of Song	2011
<i>Die schöne Müllerin, Winterreise</i>	Bargemusic, New York City	2011
Handel <i>Messiah</i>	Charlotte Symphony Orchestra	2010
<i>Manning the Canon: Songs of Gay Life</i>	New York Festival of Song	2010
Bernstein <i>MASS</i>	Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, London	2010
Vaughan Williams <i>Dona nobis pacem</i>	U. of California at Davis	2009
World Premiere of R. I. Gordon's <i>Green Sneakers</i>	Bravo! Vail Valley Music Festival	2008
Closing Night Gala Recital	Music at Meyer, San Francisco	2008
Bach <i>Mass in B Minor</i>	Los Angeles Master Chorale / Musica Angelica	2008
Bach <i>Christmas Oratorio</i> , Handel <i>Messiah</i>	American Bach Soloists	2008
Orff <i>Carmina Burana</i>	Pennsylvania Ballet, New York City Center	2007
Guest Artist Recital with pianist Martin Katz	SONGFEST, Malibu, CA	2007
<i>Die schöne Müllerin</i>	Austrian Embassy, Washington, D.C.	2007
Marilyn Horne Foundation <i>On Wings of Song</i> recital	St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City	2006
World Premiere of <i>The Lay of the Love and Death</i>	Alice Tully Hall, New York City	2006
Featured Soloist with the Mark Morris Dance Group	Various U.S. Cities / United Kingdom tour	2006, 2005

Awards

Third Prize	15th International Robert Schumann Competition	2008
First Prize	5 th International Hilde Zadek Competition, Vienna	2007
First Prize	National Federation of Music Clubs Auditions	2007
Second Place, Lieder Division	Liederkrantz Foundation Awards	2006

JESSE BLUMBERG - BARITONE

Critical Acclaim

Boston Early Music Festival – *Niobe, Regina di Tebe*

“Jesse Blumberg sung the avenging magician Poliferno’s outbursts with commanding ease.” - City Journal, 2011

Minnesota Opera – *Wuthering Heights*

“One of America’s great young baritones” - Opera Today, 2011

New York Festival of Song - *Manning the Canon*

“Blumberg brought soulful lyricism to Tchaikovsky's "At the Ball." - Opera News, 2011

Southbank Centre, London – Bernstein *MASS* at Royal Festival Hall

“Jesse Blumberg made a touchingly vulnerable Celebrant.” - Financial Times, 2010

“Alsop, a pupil of Bernstein...was helped by an outstanding young baritone soloist, Jesse Blumberg, who turned the Celebrant’s loss of faith into an entirely believable mental breakdown rather than a piece of ideological grandstanding.” - Daily Telegraph, 2010

Boston Lyric Opera – Strauss: *Ariadne auf Naxos*

“Through excellent diction and a measured portrayal, Blumberg brought forth a reality wherein clowns and princesses might chat over coffee.” - Boston Musical Intelligencer, 2010

Kerrytown Concert House – Schubert: *Die schöne Müllerin*

“... the stars aligned perfectly for Schubert, and for the song cycle itself, which received a vivid, finely paced reading from baritone Jesse Blumberg and pianist Martin Katz.” - AnnArbor.com, 2010

Vail Valley Music Festival – World Premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon’s *Green Sneakers*

“Blumberg at the premiere made this story his own, singing with a richly nuanced voice and, at 29, the stage presence of a veteran actor.”

- Opera Today, 2008

American Bach Soloists - Bach: *Christmas Oratorio*

“Blumberg’s rich, refined sound gave touching poignancy to “Erleucht auch meine finstre Sinnen.”

- San Francisco Classical Voice, 2008

Opera Delaware – Adamo: *Little Women*

“As John Brooke, Jesse Blumberg was far more appealing than the character in the novel, and his courtship of Meg, punctuated by sarcastic comments from Jo and Laurie, was another highpoint of the production.”

- Arts Delaware, 2008

Opera Vivente - Monteverdi: *The Return of Ulysses to His Homeland*

“In the title role, Jesse Blumberg commanded the stage, physically and vocally. His virile baritone grabbed the melodic lines with remarkable dynamic force, lighting up the hall with his every appearance.”

- The Baltimore Sun, 2007



Blumberg – Critical Acclaim continued

American Bach Soloists - Bach: Cantata 106, Gottes Zeit ist die Allerbeste Zeit

“...Blumberg maintained lovely phrasing and diction. The contrasting melismatic lines rose and fell elegantly... Blumberg also handled the extremely high tessitura of the later arioso with aplomb. The rising lines, again illustrating the text's reference to paradise, arched gracefully.”

- San Francisco Classical Voice, 2007

Minnesota Opera – World Premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon’s *The Grapes of Wrath*

“As Connie, who abandons her, Jesse Blumberg used his strong baritone to make the most of the pathos.”

- Seen and Heard International, 2007

Rockland Opera - *Il barbiere di Siviglia*

“The mastery and polish of our Figaro on that rainy Saturday night was immense. Jesse Blumberg put forth a performance of great, stunning, and often side-splitting humor. A possessor of a most remarkable voice, he sang as the opera ought to be sung- with clarity of the aesthetic of Opera-Buffera, and beautiful Italian diction.”

- Outlook Press, 2006



World Premiere of Lisa Bielawa’s *The Lay of the Love and Death* at Alice Tully Hall

“Ms. Bielawa’s vocal line, sung with power and clarity by Jesse Blumberg, is essentially lyrical, but with a current of nervous energy suggested by the tragic text.”

- New York Times, 2006

Recital of Songs by Hugo Wolf at the Austrian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

“Baritone Jesse Blumberg and pianist Thomas Bagwell gave a recital of songs by Hugo Wolf at the Austrian Embassy Friday that was no less than revelatory... Blumberg’s focused baritone is perfect for German lieder, with its finely honed, luminous timbres... Blumberg and Bagwell met Wolf’s “To an Aeolian Harp” with caressing tenderness, “Consider, o Soul” with an ironic thrust and “Farewell” (an encore) with all its operatic drama and prancing wit. ”

- The Washington Post, 2006

Mark Morris Dance Group - *Somebody’s Coming to See Me Tonight*

“...With the sweet, clear tones of soprano Eileen Clark and baritone Jesse Blumberg and an American Bach Soloists choir rising from the pit, nine dancers seem all but airborne on Foster’s songs...”

- San Francisco Chronicle, 2005