

Jason Slayden, tenor

## BIOGRAPHY

In the 2015-16 season, tenor Jason Slayden will make his company debut with Lyric Opera of Chicago as Tybalt and the understudy of Romeo in their production of Gounod's *Romeo et Juliette*. With Cedar Rapids Opera Theater, he premieres his first Alfredo in Verdi's *La Traviata*. Other performances this season include *La Boheme* with Virginia Opera starring as Rodolfo, Gianni Schicchi with Opera Santa Barbara as Rinuccio, *Madama Butterfly* with Berkshires Opera Festival as Pinkerton, as well as a return to the Jacksonville Symphony as the tenor soloist in Handel's *Messiah*.

Last season, Jason premiered with Gotham Chamber Opera in their double bill of Bohuslav Martinu's *Alexandre Bis* and *Veselohra na Moste* (*Comedy on the Bridge*). His New York City debut earned critical acclaim.

In "Alexandre bis," the eloquent tenor JASON SLAYDEN played Oscar's sportiness and self-regard to the hilt (he made his first appearance on a turn-of-the-century tricycle with a big front wheel). For "Comedy on the Bridge," he was transformed into a neurotic schoolmaster, obsessed with a nonsensical riddle and bearing a curious resemblance to Hugh Grant.

-WALL STREET JOURNAL

He returned to Arizona Opera to sing *il Duca di Mantua* in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and in the spring, Jason also made debuts with Florida Grand Opera as Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* and Austin Lyric Opera in *Don Giovanni* as Don Ottavio.

The 2013-2014 season brought several Verdi role debuts, including *il Duca di Mantua* in *Rigoletto* with Opera Memphis, Gabriele Adorno in *Simon Boccanegra* with Kentucky Opera, and Cassio in *Otello* for

Nashville Opera. Also in 2014 was a reprise of his Rodolfo for Arizona Opera's *La Bohème*, hailed by the press as "impeccably expressive." In concert that season he performed with the Jacksonville Symphony in Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*, the Dayton Philharmonic for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and with L'Opéra de Montreal for their Gala 18th Edition: A Verdi Celebration.

The 2012-13 season marked Jason's international debut, which attracted much critical acclaim. As Rodolfo in Vancouver Opera's *La Bohème*, critics praised him as a "heartfelt, note-perfect tenor," and said, "His 'Che gelida manina' was refreshingly realistic . . . and was dramatically as well as musically interesting." Prior to that he was a Filene Young Artist with Wolf Trap Opera, where he performed Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, a recital with pianist Steven Blier, and the tenor solo in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the National Symphony Orchestra. Additional engagements for the 2012-2013 season included his debut with Minnesota Opera in Thomas's *Hamlet* as Laerte, and a return to Des Moines Metro Opera to premiere his first *Roméo et Juliette*.

Jason was a Seattle Opera Young Artist in 2011-2012, where he made his main stage debut as Uldino in Verdi's *Attila*. In the Young Artist program, he sang the title role in Massenet's *Werther* and Ernesto in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*. Also in 2011, Jason won the Gerda Lissner Foundation First Prize, a George London Foundation encouragement award, and was a Metropolitan Opera National council semi-finalist. He returned Santa Fe Opera as a principal artist following two summers as an apprentice to sing the role of Andres in Berg's *Wozzeck* and, at the last minute, stepped in to sing two performances of *La Bohème* as Rodolfo. As an apprentice artist at Santa Fe in 2009 and 2010, he was awarded the Donald Gramm Memorial Award and the Richard Tucker Memorial Award.