**David Ward, Basso Buffo**

David Ward is one of America's leading basso buffos, bringing his dazzling patter, his hysterical stage presence and his “shining bass” to productions of comic opera across the country. In over 25 productions of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, he has portrayed his critically acclaimed Dr. Bartolo – twice on tour with the New York City Opera National Company, Nevada Opera, Knoxville Opera, Kentucky Opera, Lake George Opera Festival, Des Moines Metro Opera, Intermountain Opera, Bob Jones University, Opera Idaho, Toledo Opera, Virginia Opera, El Paso Opera, Opera Roanoke, Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts and the Aspen Music Festival.

His Don Magnifico in *La Cenerentola* was heard at the Opening Night of the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai, China, as well as Des Moines Metro Opera, Bob Jones University, University of Nebraska in Lincoln and Lyric Opera of San Antonio.

Mr. Ward is also acclaimed for his Donizetti roles: Don Pasquale at the Lake George Opera Festival, Sulpice in *La Fille du Regiment* with the New York City Opera National Company, and Dr. Dulcamara in *L’Elisir d'amore* at Greensboro Opera, Virginia Opera, El Paso Opera, Granite State Opera, Bob Jones University and the Skylight Comic Opera. Opera News wrote of his Dulcamara, “Ward juggled dizzying patter and demanding stage business with aplomb”. Mr. Ward brings his Dulcamara to Hong Kong for China’s Musica Viva in 2011.

Mr. Ward made his New York City Opera debut as Dr. Bartolo, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, a role he has also sang for Des Moines Metro Opera, Roanoke Opera, Nevada Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Opera Idaho, Pensacola Opera and Greensboro Opera. Opera News called his Bartolo “expert.” Other Mozart performances include Osmin in *The Abduction from the Seraglio* for Anchorage Opera, Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* for the Chattanooga Symphony and Opera Northeast, and the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* for Lake George Opera Festival.

A versatile bass, Mr. Ward appeared with New York Grand Opera to sing the title role in *Falstaff* and Fra Melitone in *La Forza del Destino*. At New York Grand Opera’s Puccini Festival, he appeared as Geronte in *Manon Lescaut*, also heard at Intermountain Opera, and the Sacristan in *Tosca*. His Sacristan has also been heard at Des Moines Metro Opera, Opera Ontario and Opera Delaware, while his Benoit and Alcindoro in *La Bohème* have been heard at Opera Omaha, New Orleans Opera, Chautauqua Festival, San Antonio Opera, Intermountain Opera and with the Tokyo City Symphony in Japan. Mr. Ward sang the title role in *Gianni Schicchi* for the Chautauqua Festival.

A comic specializing in operetta and Gilbert & Sullivan, his Franke in *Die Fledermaus* has been heard at Opera New Jersey, Opera Nevada, Opera Grand Rapids and Delaware Opera; his ebullient Baron Zeta in *The Merry Widow* has been seen Fresno Grand Opera, Sacramento Opera and Mobile Opera. He appeared as Major General Stanley for Opera New Jersey, Pooh Bah for Indianapolis Opera and Sir Joseph Porter in *HMS Pinafore* for Lake George Opera Festival and Opera East Texas. He has sung the title role in *The Mikado* for Anchorage Opera and Mobile Opera, while his Dick Deadeye in *HMS Pinafore* has been seen at Chattanooga Opera and the New York G&S Players. Other operetta roles include Prince Populescu in *Countess Maritza*, Van Bett in Lortzing's *Zar und Zimmerman*, Calchas in Offenbach's *La belle Hélène*, and Frosch in *Die Fledermaus*.

Mr. Ward made his Santa Fe Opera debut in the world premier of David Lang's *Modern Painters*. Mr. Ward has also portrayed such roles as Sancho in *Don Quichotte* (in concert), the Musician Monk in *Le Jongleur de Notre Dame*, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Elder McLean in *Susannah*. For two seasons Mr. Ward sang Kecal in *The Bartered Bride* for the New York City Opera Educational Department before thousands of New York City school children. He recently sang the title role in *Brundibar* for Opera Omaha as part of their educational series on the Holocaust presented to over 10,000 students.

With his roots in musical theater, Mr. Ward played Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd* for Portland Opera and Arizona Opera. He appeared as Benjamin Franklin in *1776!* for Utah Festival Opera. Other musical theater roles include Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Charlemagne in *Pippin*, Hajj, the Poet in *Kismet* and Horace Vandergelder in *Hello Dolly!*

Mr. Ward has appeared in concert with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Amherst Symphony, Acadiana Symphony, Bronx Chamber Orchestra and the Westfield Symphony. He has given master classes at New Jersey Opera, University of Nebraska in Lincoln, University of Louisiana in Lafayette, Houston Community College and Amherst College.

A native of Allendale, NJ, and a graduate of the College of Wooster, OH, Mr. Ward lived in New York City for 30 years where he studied voice with Armen Boyajian for over 15 years and Richard Gordon. Mr. Ward is a member of Actors' Equity Association and the American Guild of Musical Artists.

Mr. Ward currently resides in Tucson, AZ, where he acts as the Interim Director of the University of Arizona Opera Theater and serves as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Mr. Ward recently received his Masters of Music in Vocal Performance/Pedagogy and Opera Directing at the University of Houston’s Moores School of Music, under the direction of Buck Ross and Dr. Timothy Jones. While at the Moores School, Mr. Ward appeared in the title role of *Falstaff*, made his role debut as Baron Ochs in *Der Rosenkavalier* and directed mainstage productions of Kirke Mechem’s *Tartuffe* and *Le Nozze di Figaro*. In 2012 he co-directed the Scenes Program at Opera in the Ozarks while assistant directing *Die Zauberflote* and *La Boheme* and appearing as Madame Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*. Last season Mr. Ward directed a critically-acclaimed *Falstaff* for Houston’s Opera in the Heights while teaching for both the voice and opera departments at the Moores School, and he returned to Opera in the Ozarks to direct *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Cinderella*. In 2014 Mr. Ward will return to the Ozarks to direct *Cosi fan tutte* and a touring, family production of *HMS Pinafore.*

Season 2013-2014