

# CURTIS BANNISTER | TENOR

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Jim Ragotski	Porgy & Bess	The Metropolitan Opera	2019/20
Street Singer / Celebrant <sup>Ω</sup>	Candide	Philadelphia Orchestra	2019
Rev. Jerome Mitchell	Bernstein: Mass	Ravinia Festival/Chicago Symphony Orchestra	2019
	Shore: Freedom Ride	Chicago Opera Theatre (world premiere)	2019

## PERFORMED ROLES

Paul	Kiss Me, Kate	St. Petersburg Opera	2019
Celebrant	Bernstein: Mass	Baltimore Symphony Orchestra/Peabody Opera	2018
Werther	Werther	Musica Lumina Orchestra	2018
Professor Hornsby/Set	The Scorpions' Sting	Lyric Opera of Chicago/Lyric Unlimited	2017
Edward Moncreif	On A Clear Day You Can See Forever	Porchlight Music Theatre	2017
Lover	Il Tabarro	Utah Festival Opera Company	2016
Sportin' Life	Porgy & Bess	Utah Festival Opera Company	2016
Don Jose	Carmen	Natchez Festival of Music	2016
Sweeney Todd <sup>Ω</sup>	Sweeney Todd	Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival	2015
Cacambo/Ragotski/Baron	Candide	Baltimore Symphony Orchestra	2015
1 <sup>st</sup> Heavenly Friend	Carousel	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2015
Peter / Sportin' Life <sup>Ω</sup>	Porgy & Bess	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2014
Enjolras	Les Miserables	Utah Festival Opera Company	2014
Anatol <sup>Ω</sup>	Vanessa	Utah Festival Opera Company	2014
Otello	Otello	Utah Festival Opera Company	2013
Steuermann <sup>Ω</sup>	Der fliegende Holländer	Utah Festival Opera Company	2013
Lt. B. F. Pinkerton	Madama Butterfly	American Chamber Opera	2013
Arturo <sup>Ω</sup>	Lucia di Lammermoor	Sarasota Opera	2012
John Cheever <sup>Ω</sup>	The Crucible	Sarasota Opera	2011
Rodolfo	La Bohème	Repertory Opera Theater of Washington	2010

## ORATORIO | CONCERT | RECITAL

Soloist	Saint-Saens: Christmas Oratorio	Musica Lumina Orchestra	2018
Soloist	Recital	Clayton Piano Festival	2018
Soloist	Recital	Cherry Hill Concert Series	2018
Soloist	Haydn : Lord Nelson Mass	Baltimore Choral Arts Society	2017
Soloist	Mozart: Requiem	Musica Lumina Orchestra/Niles Metropolitan Chorus	2016
Soloist	Kozert Oper	Theater an der Wien	2015
Soloist   Uriel	Haydn: The Creation	Waukesha Choral Union	2014
Soloist	Schubert: Auf dem Strom	Musée de Louvre   Musique de Chambre	2014
Soloist <sup>Ω</sup>	Beethoven: Missa Solemnis	Utah Festival Opera Company	2013
Soloist	Handel: Messiah	Waukesha Choral Union	2013
Soloist	Tippet: A Child of Our Time	Handel Choir of Baltimore	2010
Recital	French Melodies & Negro Spirituals	Musée de Louvre   Musique de Chambre	2010

## HONORS | AWARDS

Special Award Winner	The Lotte Lenya Competition   Kurt Weill Foundation	2017
Semi-finalist	Classical Idol XI   Rochester Oratorio Society	2017
U.S. Contestant/Representative	Concour International de Chant de Toulouse	2016
Finalist	The Lotte Lenya Competition   Kurt Weill Foundation	2016
Semi-finalist	Young Patronesses of Opera/Florida Grand Opera Voice Competition	2015
Uihlein Fund Grant	Supporters of Opera Singers Inc.	2013, 2014
Encouragement Award	Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions   Upper-Midwest Region	2012

### TEACHERS

Connie Haas  
Frank Lopardo

### COACHES

Ken Noda  
Sean Kelly  
Stephen Carey  
Grant Loenig

### CONDUCTORS

Sir Andrew Davis  
Marin Alsop  
Yannick Nezet-Seguin  
David Chase  
David Robertson

### DIRECTORS

Francesca Zambello  
Rob Ashford  
Garnett Bruce  
Kevin Newberry  
James Robinson  
Daniel Helfgot

<sup>Ω</sup> | cover



# CURTIS BANNISTER

shirley **hamilton** inc.

Talent Representation

312.787.4700 www.shirleyhamiltontalent.com

AGMA/EMC/SAG-AFTRA

## PRE BROADWAY

Amazing Grace Thomas Broadway in Chicago (dir.: Gabriel Barre)

## TOURS

Ravel: Bolero Ensemble Dancer Ballet d'Opera National de Paris | North American Tour  
Ain't Misbehavin' Andre DeShields The National Players/Olney Theatre Center (dir.: Devron T. Young)

## TELEVISION SERIES/SPECIALS

Chicago Fire Reimers NBC Universal  
Get Real Curtis The WB/ Warner Brothers Studios/PBS  
Kenny Rogers Christmas Special Soloist Kenny Rogers Productions/The Bradley Center

## NATIONAL & REGIONAL THEATRE

Porgy & Bess	Jim	The Metropolitan Opera (dir.: James Robinson)*
Candide	Ragotski	The Philadelphia Orchestra (dir.: Kevin Newberry)*
The Pajama Game	Sid Sorokin	Theatre at the Center (dir.: Linda Fortunato)*
Kiss Me, Kate	Paul	Saint Petersburg Opera (dir.: Daryl Gray)
The Last 5 Years	Jamie	Jedlicka Performing Arts Center (dir.: Issac Toomes)
Ragtime!: The Musical	Matthew Henson	Marriott Theatre (dir.: Nick Bowling)
Marie Christine	Jean	BoHo Theatre (dir.: Lilli-Ann Brown)
The Civility of Albert Cashier	Walter (u/s)	Permoveo Productions/Stage 773 (dir.: Keaton Wooden)
Little Fish	John Paul	Kokandy Productions (dir.: Alison Hendrix)
Parade	Jim Conley/Newt Lee/Riley	Writers Theatre (dir.: Gary Griffin)
On A Clear Day You Can See Forever	Edward Moncreif	Porchlight Music Theatre (dir.: Lili-Anne Brown)
Sondheim: Passion	Lieutenant Barri	Writers Theatre (dir.: Stephen Schellhardt)
Porgy & Bess	Sportin' Life	Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theater (dir.: Daniel Helfgot)
Sweeney Todd	Sweeney Todd (o/s cvr)	Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival (MGR) (dir.: Igor Goldin)
Saturday Night Fever	Monty	Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival (MGR) (dir.: Brett Smock)
Candide	Cacambo/Baron/Ragotski	Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (dir.: Garnett Bruce)
Carousel	1st Heavenly Friend	Lyric Opera of Chicago (dir.: Rob Ashford)
Porgy & Bess	Sportin Life (cvr)/Peter	Lyric Opera of Chicago (dir.: Francesca Zambello)
Les Miserables	Enjolras	Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theater (dir.: Val Rachele)
Songs for a New World	Man 1	NightBlue Performing Arts   Stage 773 (dir.: David Walters)
The Little Mermaid	Sebastian	Walt Disney Studios Productions
Ragtime: The Musical	Coalhouse Walker Jr.	Maryland Arts Festival (dir.: Todd Pearthree)

Titus Andronicus  
Ain't Misbehavin'  
Miss Saigon

Aaron the Moor  
Andre DeShields (u/s)  
John

Stillpointe Theatre Initiative (dir.: Ryan Haase)  
Merry-Go-Round Playhouse/MGR (dir.: Paul David Bryan)  
Merry-Go-Round Playhouse/MGR (dir.: Brett Smock)

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS / SPECIAL TALENTS

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Operatically trained, Advanced/Fluent in Italian, French, German, Spanish; accents, weight lifting, tumbling, high belt range (high D-flat); dance training (modern, jazz, swing); model (DNA Models; First Choice Model Agency); crowd calls, piano (4 years); football, track-sprinter, tennis, fencing, swimmer/diver

# CURTIS BANNISTER

## TENOR

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Described by TimeOut Chicago Magazine as “radiating with slowly simmering energy”, tenor Curtis Bannister has been praised for his vocal artistry and dramatic portrayals in both the operatic and musical theatre repertoire. Mr. Bannister made his professional debut with the Utah Festival Opera Company; stepping in for all performances as the title role in Verdi’s **Otello**. Of his portrayal as Otello, the Salt Lake City Tribune and The Herald Journal, respectfully, praised his “dramatic inflection and compelling energy” as well as his “thrilling tenor voice and a towering stage presence.”

The 2018/19 season begins with Mr. Bannister returning to his role as Reimers on NBC’s CHICAGO FIRE, his debut with Jedlicka Performing Arts Center as Jamie in Jason Robert Brown’s **THE LAST 5 YEARS** in Chicago, his role debut as the Celebrant in Leonard Bernstein’s **MASS** under the baton of Marin Alsop, tenor soloist in Saint-Saens’ **ORATORIO DE NOEL**, and concert performances of the title role of **WERTHER** with Musica Lumina Orchestra. 2019 performances include his debut with St. Petersburg Opera as Paul in Cole Porter’s **KISS ME, KATE**, a gala performance of **THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS** for Court Theatre in Chicago, his debut with Chicago Opera Theatre in David Shore’s new opera **FREEDOM SONG** in the role of Rev. Jerome Mitchell, his debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra as Ragotski in Bernstein’s **CANDIDE**, his debut at The Ravinia Festival with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as a Street Singer and cover for the Celebrant in Bernstein’s **MASS**, a debut with Theatre at the Center as Sid Sorokin in the classic Broadway musical **THE PAJAMA GAME**, and his debut with The Metropolitan Opera as Jim in the Company’s first production of **PORGY & BESS**. Future engagements yet to be announced include operatic, musical theatre and TV appearances/performances in New York, Houston, Chicago, and the United Kingdom.

2017/2018 appearances included Curtis’ joining the cast, as a co-star, on NBC’s **CHICAGO FIRE** as Reimers, a benefit concert with the Chicago cast of “Hamilton” for AKVAVIT THEATRE featuring selections from the musical, “Chess”, and concerts as a soloist in Porchlight Music Theatre’s **NEW FACES SING BROADWAY (1959)** concert series, debuted with Kokandy Productions as John Paul in Michael LaChiusa’s **LITTLE FISH**, and debuted a new musical, **THE CIVILITY OF ALBERT CASHIER**, with Permoveo Productions. He returned to Lyric Opera of Chicago to perform the role of Set in **THE SCORPION’S STING**, debuted with BoHo Theatre as Jean in **MARIE CHRISTINE**, debuted with the Marriott Theatre as **Matthew Henson** (u/s) in **RAGTIME! THE MUSICAL**, and performed recitals of German lieder and French melodies with the **CHERRY HILL CONCERT SERIES** and **STEINWAY-CLAYTON PIANO FESTIVAL** in North Carolina.

In the previous season, Mr. Bannister performed as tenor soloist in Haydn’s **Lord Nelson Mass** for the Baltimore Choral Arts Society, debuted with Writers Theatre as Lieutenant Barri/Mother in a reading of **Stephen Sondheim’s Passion**, debuted with Porchlight Music Theatre as Edward Moncrief in **On A Clear Day You Can See Forever**, and returned to Writers Theatre in Jason Robert Brown’s **Parade**; a production in which he understudied and ultimately performed the roles of Jim Conley, Newt Lee, and Riley. In April 2017, Curtis was a Special Award recipient in the finals of **The Kurt Weill Foundation’s Lotte Lenya Competition**.

Highlights from previous seasons include Mr. Bannister’s debut at the Lyric Opera of Chicago as Peter, (Sportin’ Life cover) in the Francesca Zambello directed production of **Porgy and Bess**, 1<sup>st</sup> Heavenly Friend in Lyric Opera of Chicago’s acclaimed production of **Carousel** (directed by Rob Ashford), his debut with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as Ragotski/Cacambo/The Baron in **Candide** (conducted by Marin Alsop), Monty in the new world premiere production of **Saturday Night Fever** for Merry Go Round Playhouse/Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival, his international recital debut

of German lieder and Negro Spirituals with the **Musiques de Chambre au Musee du Louvre**, Man 1 in Jason Robert Brown's **Songs for a New World** at Chicago's Stage 773, Uriel in **Haydn's The Creation** for the Waukesha Choral Union, Rodolfo in **La Boheme** for the Repertory Opera Theater of Washington, his debut in a Shakespearian role as Aaron in **Titus Andronicus** with Stillpointe Theatre, soloist in the Baltimore Symphony Pop Orchestra's Home for the Holidays Concert starring Shirley Jones and Robert Goulet, and his debut with the **Paris Opera Ballet** as an ensemble dancer in the Maurice Béjart interpretation of Ravel's Bolero for the Ballet's 2012 North American tour.

Mr. Bannister has also performed as Pirelli in the off-Broadway production of **Sweeney Todd**, Thomas in the pre-Broadway production of the musical **Amazing Grace** for Broadway in Chicago, and portrayed the role of Andre DeSheilds for the 2009 National Players Tour of **Ain't Misbehavin'** with Olney Theatre Center. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music and an award recipient of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (Mid-west region encouragement and audience choice award winner), Curtis is a proud native of Green Bay, Wisconsin.





## CURTIS BANNISTER

### REVIEWS

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#### **KISS ME, KATE | SAINT PETERSBURG OPERA – ST. PETERSBURG, FL**

“Curtis Bannister sizzles the second act off to an equally great start with ‘Too Darn Hot.’ ”

*Talkin’ Broadway*

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#### **THE SCORPION’S STING | LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO – CHICAGO, IL**

“...the King’s jealous brother, Set, played with gravities by tenor Curtis Bannister. Bannister also portrays the teacher, Professor Hornsby, a delicate, frightened soul who couldn’t be more different than the evil Set.”

*Chicago Theatre Review*

“Soprano Melinda Alberty, mezzo-soprano Julia Hardin, tenor Curtis Bannister, and baritone Matthan Black were all splendid and created a sound world that appealed to the large number of children in the audience during the premiere performance.”

*Hyde Park Herald*

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#### **MARIE CHRISTINE | BOHO THEATRE – CHICAGO, IL**

“Jean (Curtis Bannister) has become an upwardly mobile lawyer (the actor is terrific).”

*The Chicago Sun-Times*

“Curtis Bannister as Jean- try to keep Marie Christine on the farm, so to speak, nd to adapt to the ways of bourgeois propriety. Compelling in both song and acting, you too might find yourself longing for [him] to have more songs and bigger roles.”

*Chicago Theatre Review*

“Curtis Bannister vocally proves up to the task- infusing the witchy atmosphere of the play..”

*Chicago Reader*

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**PORGY & BESS | UTAH FESTIVAL OPERA & MUSICAL THEATRE – LOGAN, UT**

“Building on his 2013 triumph as Otello, the gifted Curtis Bannister s back as the drug dealer Sportin’ Life. Bannister’s strikingly sensuous body language throughout this production is as seductive as his voice.”

*The Herald Journal*

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**CANDIDE | BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA – BALTIMORE, MD**

“Curtis Bannister, a graduate of the Peabody Institute, immediately grabbed the audience with a hilarious turn as the Westphalian baron who forbids the marriage of his daughter Cunégonde to the hapless and low-born Candide. From then on Mr. Bannister seemed to be flying all over the stage in numerous roles as the plot ranged from France to Spain to Uruguay and the mysterious paradise of Eldorado.”

*DC Metro Theater Arts*

“Vibrant work also came in a variety of roles from Curtis Bannister.”

*The Baltimore Sun*

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**PORGY & BESS | LYRIC OPERA OF CHICAGO – CHICAGO, IL**

“Curtis Bannister proved credible as the elderly Peter.”

*Chicago Classical Review*

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**FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS | HOWARD COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL – COLUMBIA, MD**

“Curtis Bannister closed the program with a rousing “Being Alive” from the musical “Company.”

*The Baltimore Sun*

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**SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD | NIGHTBLUE PERFORMING ARTS THEATER – CHICAGO, IL**

“Radiating with slowly simmering energy, Curtis Bannister proves his enviable control several times over.”

*TimeOut Chicago Magazine*

“Curtis Bannister seizes his crown in ‘King of the World’ lending his operatic voice to the swelling tides and crushing lows of a man behind bars.”

*Chicago Theatre Review*

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**OTELLO | UTAH FESTIVAL OPERA COMPANY – LOGAN, UT**

“The 28-year-old tenor transformed into a riveting portrayal with dramatic inflection and compelling energy. His youth lent credibility to the depiction of a military leader who was easily deluded by a corrupt and devious subordinate. Vocally, Bannister thrived...what could have been a theatrical disaster turned into a dramatic triumph.”

*The Salt Lake Tribune*

“Bannister, it must be said, never missed a beat – or a note – and was excellent in his portrayal of Otello’s torment and self-analysis as he struggles with the issues this story presents. Bannister’s presentation of Otello’s lamentation about having suspicions about his new wife was an example of his great effort and heart for the work. It was a strong debut that was notably appreciated by the audience at the concluding of the opera.”

*The Salt Lake City Sun / Deseret News*

“The highlight of the premiere of the Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre’s brilliantly staged and marvelously executed production of “Otello” on July 12 was a young understudy triumphantly stepping into the title role of Giuseppe Verdi’s operatic masterpiece. UFOMT newcomer Curtis Bannister jumped from the opera’s ensemble to replace the ailing scheduled leading man, bringing a thrilling tenor voice and a towering stage presence to the role of the Lion of Venice. His outstanding performance was rewarded with a richly-deserved standing ovation from the opening-night audience.”

*The Herald Journal*

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## **RAGTIME: THE MUSICAL | MARYLAND ARTS FESTIVAL – BALTIMORE, MD**

“The show's greatness is ably reinforced by an accomplished cast, led by Towson student Curtis Bannister as the proud piano player, Coalhouse Walker Jr. ...there's every reason to believe this star will continue to rise.”

*The Baltimore Sun*

“Playing Coalhouse Walker, the black musician in love with Sara, Curtis Bannister gives an indelible performance of power and nuance. His singing voice is a beautiful instrument of shattering heights.”

*LGBT Theatre Newspaper*

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## **MISS SAIGON | MERRY GO ROUND PLAYHOUSE – AUBURN, NY**

“One actor that vocally stands out is Curtis Bannister.”

*The Syracuse Post-Standard*

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## **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' | THE NATIONAL PLAYERS – TOUR 2009**

“... the athletic Mr. Bannister performs a naughtily insinuating, and impressive, solo about the joys of weed in "The Viper's Drag.””

*The Washington Times*

“A vocal standout is Curtis Bannister. A lean performer who looks quite sharp in period garb, Curtis Bannister applies his slick moves to a funny tune that sure lets you know not everybody was a square back then, "The Reefer Song."

*The Howard County Times*

“Curtis Bannister was impressive with his song delivery but wowed even more with his "bojangles" contortionist dancing.”

*The Washington All Arts Review*

## CURTIS BANNISTER | TENOR OPERA REPERTOIRE 2019

Barber	Vanessa	Anatol*
Bellini	I Capuleti e I Montecchi Norma	Tebaldo Pollione*
Berlioz	La damnation de Faust	Faust
Bernstein	Candide Mass	Candide, Cacambo*, Ragotski* Celebrant*
Bizet	Carmen Les Pêcheurs de perles	Don Jose* Nadir
Donizetti	Anna Bolena L'elisir d'amore La Favorita Lurcrezia Borgia Lucia di Lammermoor Rita (fr./itl.) Roberto Devereux	Lord Percy Nemorino* Fernando Gennaro Edgardo, Arturo* Peppe*/Beppe* Roberto
Floyd	Susannah	Sam Polk
Gershwin	Porgy & Bess	Sportin' Life*
Gounod	Faust Roméo et Juliette	Faust* Roméo*
Massenet	Manon	des Grieux
<a href="http://www.thecurtisbannister.com">www.thecurtisbannister.com</a>	<a href="mailto:thecurtisbannister@gmail.com">thecurtisbannister@gmail.com</a>	 @thee_cb



Mozart	Idomeneo La Clemenza di Tito	Idomeneo Tito
Puccini	La Boheme Gianni Schicchi Madama Butterfly La Rondine Il tabarro	Rodolfo* Rinuccio Lt. Pinkerton* Ruggero Luigi*
Strauss	Der Rosenkavalier	Italian Singer
Tchaikovsky	Yevgenji Onegin Iolanta	Lenski Vaudemont
Verdi	Luisa Miller La Traviata Macbeth Nabucco Otello Rigoletto Simon Boccanegra	Rodolfo Alfredo* Macduff Ismaele Otello*, Cassio Il Duca* Gabriele Adorno
Wagner	Der fliegende Höllander	Steuermann*

## **CURTIS BANNISTER | TENOR** **CONCERT REPERTOIRE 2019**

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Bach	Christmas Oratorio* Passion of St. John* Passion of St. Matthew*
Beethoven	Mass in C* 9 <sup>th</sup> Symphony Missa Solemnis*
Bernstein	Mass*
Britten	Canticle V* War Requiem*
Gounod	St. Cecilia Mass*
Haydn	The Creation* Lord Nelson Mass* St. Teresa Mass   Mass in B-minor* St. Nicholas Mass   Mass in G-Major*
Handel	Judas Maccabeus Messiah* Samson*
Mahler	Das Lied von der Erde
Mendelssohn	Elijah*
Mozart	Mass in C   Coronation Mass* Grand Mass in C-minor

	Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*
	Missa brevis in B-flat*
	Missa brevis in F*
	Requiem*
Orff	Carmina Burana
Rossini	Missa Solennes
	Stabat Mater*
Saint-Saëns	Christmas Oratorio*
Schubert	Mass No. 2   G-Major*
Tippet	A Child of Our Time*
Vaughan Williams	Four Hymns*
	Mass in G Minor
	Five Mystical Songs*
	On Wenlock Edge*
Verdi	Requiem*

\* | Performed roles/works