

CURTIS BANNISTER | TENOR

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Cura	Il postino	Chicago Opera Theatre	2021
TBA	TBA	Carnegie Hall	2021
Soloist	Symphonic Pops 2020	The Columbia Orchestra	2020

PERFORMED ROLES

Rev. Jerome Mitchell	Shore: Freedom Ride (World Premiere)	Chicago Opera Theatre	2020
Theseus	The Gospel at Colonus	Skylight Music Theatre	2020
Street Singer / Celebrant ^Ω	Bernstein: Mass	Ravinia Festival/Chicago Symphony Orchestra	2019
Ragotski	Candide	The Philadelphia Orchestra	2019
Rev. Jerome Mitchell	Shore: Freedom Ride (Workshop)	Chicago Opera Theatre	2019
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
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
Cacambo/Ragotski/Baron	Candide	Baltimore Symphony Orchestra	2015
1 st Heavenly Friend	Carousel	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2015
Peter / Sportin' Life ^Ω	Porgy & Bess	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2014
Enjolras	Les Misérables	Utah Festival Opera Company	2014
Anatol ^Ω	Vanessa	Utah Festival Opera Company	2014
Otello	Otello	Utah Festival Opera Company	2013
Steuermann ^Ω	Der fliegende Holländer	Utah Festival Opera Company	2013
Lt. B. F. Pinkerton	Madama Butterfly	American Chamber Opera	2013
Arturo ^Ω	Lucia di Lammermoor	Sarasota Opera	2012
John Cheever ^Ω	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 ^Ω	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
Daniel Helfgot



CURTIS BANNISTER

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Talent Representation

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SAG-AFTRA/ AGMA / EMC

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

Dickinson Marquis (Season 2) Apple TV+*
 Chicago Fire Reimers (Seasons 6 & 7) 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

Ragtime!: The Musical	Coalhouse Walker, Jr.	Music Theatre Works (dir.: Stacey Flaster)*
Ain't Misbehavin'	Andre	Theatre at the Center (dir.: Daryl Brooks)*
The Gospel at Colonus	Theseus	Skylight Music Theatre (dir.: Sheri Williams Pannell)
The Pajama Game	Sid Sorokin	Theatre at the Center (dir.: Linda Fortunato)
MASS (Bernstein)	Street Singer, Celebrant (u/s)	Chicago Symphony Orchestra (dir.: Kevin Newbury)
Candide	Ragotski	The Philadelphia Orchestra (dir.: Kevin Newbury)
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 (u/s)	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)
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 Rachelle)
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	Aaron the Moor	Stillpointe Theatre Initiative (dir.: Ryan Haase)
Ain't Misbehavin'	Andre DeShields (u/s)	Merry-Go-Round Playhouse/MGR (dir.: Paul David Paul Bryan)
Miss Saigon	John	Merry-Go-Round Playhouse/MGR (dir.: Brett Smock)

ADDITIONAL SKILLS / SPECIAL TALENTS

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); crow calls, piano (4 years); football, track-sprinter, tennis, fencing, swimmer/diver

CURTIS BANNISTER

TENOR

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.”

Mr. Bannister’s schedule is artistically diverse for the 2019/20 season. It begins with his debut with Theatre at the Center as Sid Sorokin in the classic Broadway musical **THE PAJAMA GAME** and is followed by his joining the Season 2 cast of **DICKINSON** on Apple TV+ as Marquis, his debut with Skylight Music Theatre as Theseus in **THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS**, his debut as Rev. Jerome Mitchell in the world premiere of Dan Shore’s **FREEDOM RIDE** with Chicago Opera Theatre, his concert debut with the The Columbia Orchestra, and his return to Theatre at the Center in **AIN’T MISBEHAVIN’** as Andre. Future season engagements include operatic, musical theatre and TV appearances/performances in Washington DC, Chicago, Austin (TX), Los Angeles, and New York City.

The 2018/19 season began with Mr. Bannister returning to his co-starring role of Reimers on NBC’s CHICAGO FIRE, his debut with Jedlicka Performing Arts Center as Jamie in Jason Robert Brown’s **THE LAST 5 YEARS**, his role debut as the Celebrant in Leonard Bernstein’s **MASS** under the baton of Marin Alsop in Baltimore, and the title role of **WERTHER** with Musica Lumina Orchestra. 2019 performances included his debut with St. Petersburg Opera as Paul in Cole Porter’s **KISS ME, KATE**, a concert performance of **THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS** for Court Theatre (Chicago), his debut with the Philadelphia Orchestra as Ragotski in **CANDIDE**, and his debut at The Ravinia Festival with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra as a Street Singer, and cover for the Celebrant, in Bernstein’s **MASS**.

Previous season highlights include concerts as a soloist for Porchlight Music Theatre’s **NEW FACES SING BROADWAY (1959)** Series, Mr. Bannister’s return to Lyric Opera of Chicago to perform the role of Set in **THE SCORPION’S STING**, Jean in **MARIE CHRISTINE** with BoHo Theatre, his recital debut with the **CLAYTON PIANO FESTIVAL** in North Carolina, tenor soloist in Haydn’s **Lord Nelson Mass** for the Baltimore Choral Arts Society, his debut with Porchlight Music Theatre as Edward Moncrief in **On A Clear Day You Can See Forever**, his return 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, 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**, 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, and Rodolfo in **La Boheme** for the Repertory Opera Theater of Washington.

Away from his classical and operatic engagements, Curtis has also made his debut in a Shakespearian role as Aaron in **Titus Andronicus** with Stillpointe Theatre, 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, performed as Pirelli in the off-Broadway production of **Sweeney Todd**, Thomas in the pre-Broadway/Broadway in Chicago production of the musical **Amazing Grace**, and portrayed the role of Andre for the 2009 National Players Tour of **Ain’t Misbehavin’** with Olney Theatre Center. In April 2017, Curtis was a Special Award recipient of **The Kurt Weill Foundation’s Lotte Lenya Competition**. A graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music of The Johns Hopkins University, Mr. Bannister is an award recipient of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and a proud native of Green Bay, Wisconsin.



CURTIS BANNISTER

REVIEWS

THE GOSPEL AT COLONUS | SKYLIGHT MUSIC THEATRE - MILWAUKEE

“As Theseus, a sympathetic ruler who allows Oedipus to rest in his village, Curtis Bannister is exceptional. His gentle but agile singing voice and considerable acting skills make his message the most clear.”

OnMilwaukee

"Curtis Bannister make[s] a strong authoritative figure as charismatic King Theseus."

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

THE PAJAMA GAME | THEATRE AT THE CENTER – CHICAGO, IL

“If you don’t go see The Pajama Game at The Theatre at the Center for any other reason, go to hear the booming tenor voice of the hunky lead, Curtis Bannister. The actor who has appeared on NBC’s Chicago Fire, plays Sid Sorokin, the ‘Chicago Guy’ and the newly hired superintendent at Sleep Tite, a pajama factory in Cedar Rapids, Iowa”.

Chicago Theatre & Arts

“Newcomer Curtis Bannister brings an honest, truly likable, earnest quality to his portrayal of Sid, but it’s his gorgeous voice that impressed the opening night audience and all but stopped the show. His renditions of ‘Hey There’ and ‘A New Town Is A Blue Town’ dazzle and delight. There’s no doubt that Chicago audiences will be clamoring to see and hear more from this accomplished performer in the near future”.

Chicago Theatre Review

“Bannister, as Sid, is an example of TATC (Theatre at the Center) finding great talent. Bannister’s theatrical, operatic voice is smooth, polished and exceptional; which sets the tone for excitement for the audience.”

Chicago Now

“Starring in the show are Elizabeth Telford as Babe and Curtis Bannister as Sid. Bannister’s voice, which is full and rich, is a highlight in the show. TV fans may recognize Bannister from his role in the television show ‘Chicago Fire’.”

Chicago Tribune/NWI Times

CANDIDE | THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA – PHILADELPHIA, PA

“As Prince Ragotski, Curtis Bannister’s gorgeous tenor makes you almost forget that his character is a sinister sex trader.”

ConcertoNet.com

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

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, and 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

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

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

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

“Curtis Bannister proved credible as the elderly Peter.”

Chicago Classical Review

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

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

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

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

“The show's greatness is ably reinforced by an accomplished cast, led by 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

AIN'T MISBEHAVIN' | OLNEY THEATRE CENTER & THE NATIONAL PLAYERS

“... 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

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 Romèò et Juliette	Faust* Romèò*
Massenet	Manon	des Grieux
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*

Bach	Christmas Oratorio* Passion of St. John* Passion of St. Matthew*
Beethoven	Mass in C* 9 th 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 Vesparae 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*