

# CURTIS BANNISTER | TENOR

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

Professor Hornsby/Set	The Scorpions' Sting	Lyric Opera of Chicago/Lyric Unlimited	2017
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## PERFORMED ROLES

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 Misérables	Utah Festival Opera Company	2014
Anatol <sup>Ω</sup>	Vanessa	Utah Festival Opera Company	2014
Player	Gordon: Orpheus & Euridice	Chicago Opera Theater	2013
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
Monsieur Vogelsang	The Impresario	Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival	2010

## ORATORIO | CONCERT | RECITAL

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	Captivating Opera Classics	Metropolitan Opera National Council	2014
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
Soloist   Evangelist	Bach: The St. John Passion	Baltimore Baroque Band	2010

## HONORS | AWARDS

Special Award Winner	The Lotte Lenya Competition   Kurt Weill Foundation	2017
Semi-finalist	Classical Idol XI   Rochester Oratorio Society	2017
Semi-finalist	Singer of the Year Competition   Shreveport Opera	2017
U.S. Contestant/Representative	Concour International de Chant de Toulouse	2016
Finalist	The Lotte Lenya Competition   Kurt Weill Foundation	2016
Finalist	The American Prize   Opera Division	2015
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

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

Apprentice Artist	Sarasota Opera	2011, 2012
G.P.D., Voice	The Peabody Conservatory of Music	2010
B.M., Vocal Performance	Towson University	2007

### TEACHERS

Connie Haas  
Gran Wilson

### COACHES

Stephen Carey  
Sean Kelly  
Miah Im  
Grant Loenig

### CONDUCTORS

Sir Andrew Davis  
Marin Alsop  
Victor DeRenzi  
David Chase

### DIRECTORS

Francesca Zambello  
Rob Ashford  
Garnett Bruce  
Daniel Helfgot

<sup>Ω</sup> | cover



# CURTIS BANNISTER

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AGMA / EMC

HEIGHT: 5'10" EYES: BROWN HAIR COLOR: BLACK

## PRE BROADWAY

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

## OFF BROADWAY

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Sweeney Todd Pirelli OFY Productions | New York (dir.: Brian Lowdermilk)

## TOURS

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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

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Get Real Curtis The WB/ Warner Brothers Studios/PBS

Kenny Rogers Christmas Special Soloist Kenny Rogers Productions/The Bradley Center

## NATIONAL & REGIONAL THEATRE

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Merrily We Roll Along Frank (u/s)/Jerome Porchlight Music Theatre\* (dir.: Michael Weber)

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 Aaron the Moor Stillpointe Theatre Initiative (dir.: Ryan Haase)

Ain't Misbehavin' Andre DeShields (u/s) Merry-Go-Round Playhouse/MGR (dir.: Paul David Bryand)

Miss Saigon John 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 (ballet, modern, jazz, swing); model (DNA Models; First Choice Model Agency); crowd calls, play piano (4 years); football, track-sprinter, improv

# 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.”

For the 2017/18 season, Mr. Bannister will debut as John Paul in LaChiusa’s off-Broadway musical **Little Fish** for Kokandy Productions and debut with Lyric Unlimited as Professor Hornsby/Set in **The Scorpions Sting**. Additional season performances included appearances and debuts in Chicago, New York and Cologne.

In the 2016/17 season, Mr. Bannister returned to the roster at Lyric Opera of Chicago for their productions of **Les Troyens** and **Norma**, performed as the tenor soloist in **Handel’s Messiah** with the St. Cecilia Concert Series, tenor soloist in **Haydn’s Lord Nelson** Mass for the Baltimore Choral Arts Society, and made his debut as Lieutenant Barri in a reading of **Sondheim’s Passion** with Writer’s Theatre. Additional season performances included Edward Moncrief in Lerner’s classic musical **On A Clear Day You Can See Forever** with Porchlight Music Theatre and a return to Writers Theatre to understudy the roles of Jim Conley and Newt Lee in **Parade**. In September 2017, Mr. Bannister traveled to Toulouse, France where he was one of three representatives of the United States chosen to compete in the **51st Concour International de Chant de Toulouse**. Curtis was also a Special Award Winner recipient in the 2017 **Lotte Lenya Competition** as well as a semifinalist in the **Rochester Oratorio Society** Classical Idol XI Competition.

Performances in the 2015/16 season included a return to the Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival to cover the title role in **Sweeney Todd**, tenor soloist in **Mozart’s Requiem** for the Musica Lumina Orchestra, a debut as Don Jose for the Natchez Festival of Music in **Carmen** and a return to Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre for his debut as Sportin’ Life in **Porgy & Bess** and the Lover in **Il tabarro** from Puccini’s **Il Trittico**. Curtis was also a finalist for the **2016 American Prize in Opera** and a finalist in the 2016 **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 production of **Porgy and Bess**, a concert for the **Metropolitan Opera** National Council, 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 professional theater 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’**. 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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### **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*

Barber	Vanessa	Anatol*
Bellini	I Capuleti e I Montecchi Norma	Tebaldo Pollione*
Berlioz	La damnation de Faust	Faust
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
Glass	The Fall of the House of Usher	Roderick Usher
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
Stravinsky	The Rake's Progress	Tom Rakewell
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 <sup>th</sup> Symphony Missa Solemnis*
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