

Distinguished American tenor **Stanford Olsen** is one of this generation's most accomplished and versatile artists, with a career spanning nearly 40 years and more than 1,200 performances on five continents. Since his debut in 1986, opposite Dame Joan Sutherland in Bellini's *I Puritani*, Stanford Olsen has performed more than 160 times with New York's Metropolitan Opera. Acclaimed for his performances of leading roles in the operas of Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti, and Bellini, Olsen immediately established an international reputation as a singer of style and elegance, as cited in the 1990 *New York Times* article "A Golden Age of Mozart Tenors." Highly regarded for his interpretations of the bel canto roles, Olsen has been heard in this repertoire throughout the world at venues such as San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Miami Opera, La Scala di Milano, Landestheater Stuttgart, Theatre du Chatelet, Theatre La Monnaie, Australian Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Nederlandse Oper, Tokyo Opera City, and most other major companies in North America and Europe.

Since his professional concert debut as tenor soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony in 1983, Stanford Olsen has performed with most of the world's great orchestras, in repertoire from Bach to Bartok. Among his credits are over 100 performances each of Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Orff's *Carmina Burana*. He has been a frequent guest with the Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, St. Louis Symphony, and most other major American orchestras. Outside the U.S., Olsen has repeatedly been heard with the Berlin Philharmoniker, Concertgebouw, Internationale Bachakademie Stuttgart, L'Orchestre de Paris, L'Orchestre National de France, Philharmonia Orchestra, Israeli Philharmonic, Orchestre de Montréal, Oslo Symphony Orchestra, and Tokyo's NHK Symphony. Olsen has performed and recorded with many of the leading conductors of our time, among them Pierre Boulez, Sir Colin Davis, Charles Dutoit, Christoph Eschenbach, Sir John-Eliot Gardner, Alan Gilbert, Carlos Kleiber, James Levine, Kurt Masur, Sir Neville Marriner, Seiji Ozawa, Robert Shaw, and Michael Tilson-Thomas.

One of this country's most successful recitalists, Olsen won First Prize in the 1989 "Walter W. Naumburg" competition for recitalists- the only tenor to do so in 85 years. His New York recital debut, singing Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin*, was in Alice Tully Hall in 1989. Olsen performed the cycle in 1997 in the concluding season of the 92nd Street Y's 10-year "Schubertiade" project, accompanied by

maestro James Levine. His European recital debut at Paris' Theatre du Chatelet was quickly followed by recital engagements at Brussels' La Monnaie and Italy's Maggio Musicale di Firenze.

In addition to the Naumburg Award, Olsen won the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 1986, received the Richard Tucker Foundation's first-ever "Ruth Richards Career Grant" 1989, as well as awards from Opera America and Opera Index. A four-time GRAMMY nominee, (including a nomination for his performance of the role of Argirio in Rossini's *Tancredi*) / (Naxos/Alberto Zedda) he also received an EMMY for the PBS broadcast of Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* with the New York Philharmonic, featuring George Hearn and Patti Lupone. Recognized by the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music's as its "Alumnus of the Year" in 1989, he also received the first-ever "Alumnus of the Year" award from the University of Utah College of Fine Arts in 2010.

A sought-after clinician and adjudicator, Stanford Olsen has been a judge for the Metropolitan Opera's National Council Auditions (now Laffont competition) for over 30 years. He has given masterclasses to students at most of the country's significant universities and conservatories, including CCM, Curtis, Eastman, Oberlin, Manhattan School of Music, Rice University, University of Illinois, University of Houston, USC, and dozens of others. He has also worked with the apprentices at the Tanglewood Festival, Opera Theater of St. Louis, Santa Fe Opera, Ravinia Festival, Cleveland Art Song Institute, the Aspen Music Festival, the Utah Opera, and the Metropolitan's Lindemann Young Artist Program. He has taught on faculties at Musiktheater Bavaria, Seagle Music Colony, Taos Opera Institute, Utah Valley Opera Fest, and for seven years served on the faculty of Lorin Maazel's Castleton Festival, including two years as director of the "Castleton Young Artists' Training Seminar".

Since 2013, Stanford Olsen has been on the faculty of the University of Michigan's "School of Music, Theater & Dance", and is a former Chair of the Voice Department. His work in teaching Oratorio Literature has led to the workshops he now teaches at universities, conservatories, and YAPs throughout North America known as "Oratorio Solutions", which instruct young artists on how to successfully select repertoire, plan auditions, and integrate the performance of oratorio and concert repertoire into the career of a classical singer. at Florida State University.