

ZEFFIN HOLLIS

Zeffin Quinn Hollis, Baritone

biography –

"Zeffin Quinn Hollis assumed, with this character, the opera's most difficult role, and he was nothing short of exceptional in shaking off the stereotype that defines this debauched murderer. **The brilliance that he brought to this role is grounded in a flawless technique and a warm, rich sound.** Equally effective were the more intangible aspects of his portrayal--his commanding presence, his vulnerability, and an intuitiveness that beautifully serviced Laurent and translated into a fully-rounded portrayal."

THÉRÈSE RAQUIN

Dicapo Opera Theater 2007
Review by Kathleen Gabriel

Through critically acclaimed, colorful and thoughtful presentation Zeffin Quinn Hollis exposes the heart of human stories that reflect life in the mirror of opera. Equally at home with contemporary and traditional repertoire, he has brought humanity and complexity to an array of characters. Sophisticated performances of notably wicked personalities have proven Mr. Hollis' ability to capture the intricacies of life's darkest corners. He breathed life into roles such as the Four Villains in *Les Contes d'Hoffman*, conducted by Julius Rudel, Eddie Carbon in William Bolcom's rendition of *View from the Bridge*, Méphistophélès in *Faust*, Sweeney Todd in *Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street* and the cunning and suave Nick Shadow in Stravinsky's masterpiece, *The Rake's Progress*. While chillingly comfortable in the skin of even the dastardliest scoundrel, the baritone's empathetic portrayals as compassionate leading men have also brought him acclaim. He has played the jovial Figaro in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Escamillo (*Carmen*), Marcello in *La Bohème* and Giorgio Germont in *La Traviata*.

Last season's highlights include the New York premier of Tobias Picker's *Thérèse Raquin* singing the role of Laurent at Dicapo Opera Theatre. In addition to that, Mr. Hollis added to his repertoire the title character in *Don Giovanni* as well as Tomas in *The Theory of Everything* for Encompass New Opera Theater. Mr. Hollis performed this innovative role at the New York City Opera's VOX: *On The Edge* new works festival. This season Mr. Hollis will be seen at Dallas Opera, revisiting his impassioned portrayal of Scarpia in *Tosca*, alternating in the role with world renowned Baritone, Wolfgang Brendel. His next ventures will include two important debuts; another Puccini Baritone; Jack Rance in *La Fanciulla del West* for Dicapo Opera Theatre, and also the title role in Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* sung in Hungarian for St. Louis's Union Avenue Opera. He will round out his season with a number of concert engagements most notably as the Bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah* for Hood College's 60th Anniversary Annual Performance.

As Mr. Hollis' career has taken dramatic shape, his poignant musical work has spanned coast-to-coast; he has appeared at many of the country's most significant opera houses including the Santa Fe Opera, Opera Pacific, Opera Theatre of Pittsburg, El Paso Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Opera Delaware, Opera Providence, Toledo Opera, New Orleans Opera Association, Wichita Grand Opera and the Fresno Grand Opera. As a young artist, he was a member of the Santa Fe Opera's Apprentice Artist Program for Singers during the 1999 and 2000 seasons. He was also acknowledged by the Metropolitan Opera National Council as a Western Regional Finalist in 2000 and a Midwest Regional Finalist in 2002. Excelling in competition, he was a Grand Finals Winner in the 2004 Loren L. Zachary Competition and also received the distinguished European Audition Tour Award.

Besides his work on the stage, Mr. Hollis has had the pleasure of many orchestral appearances. He has performed as a soloist with the Brooklyn Philharmonic; Lincoln Center's Little Orchestra Society of New York; Westfield Symphony; Palm Beach Opera Orchestra; Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra; Owensboro Symphony; Bear Valley Music Festival Orchestra and Rome's International Chamber Orchestra. Zeffin is also a noted recitalist, working extensively throughout the United States with Santa Fe Opera and also giving recitals as part of the Premier Performances Artists' Series and Community Concerts.

Additional information and materials can be found at www.zeffin.com.

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