

Donald Litaker - Tenor

BIOGRAPHY (October 2007)

The tenor Donald Litaker studied with Daniel Ferro (Juilliard School, New York). He graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts, the Manhattan School of Music (Master of Music) and the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy, where he studied with Giorgio Favaretto.

His career began in Germany with *Rheingold* in Cologne, and with *Salome* and *The flying Dutchman* in Bonn. International success soon came with *Tannhäuser* at the Maggio Musicale in Florence, with *Salome* in Teatro Bellini in Catania, with the *Magic Flute* in Pretoria, and with *Rheingold* in Santiago di Chile. The Concertgebouw in Amsterdam invited him for Strawinski's *Oedipus Rex*, Enesco's *Oedipe*, Cherubini's *Lodoïska*, Gluck's *Alceste*, and Hindemith's *Cardillac*. Verdi's *Inno delle Nazioni* and *8 Romances* by Verdi/Berio followed for Radio Hilverson and for the Orchestra Giuseppe Verdi in Milan. In Rotterdam he sang Gounod's *Faust* and Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*.

In France he has sung Mozart's *La Betulia liberata* and *Idomeneo* at the Opéra de Paris (Garnier), *Alceste*, *Il Re Pastore*, and *Oedipe* at the Théâtre des Champs Elysées in Paris as well as in Barcelona (Gran Teatro del Liceu), Verdi's *Aïda* in Metz, *Die drei Pintos* by Weber/Mahler at the Théâtre Musical de Paris (Châtelet). At the Opéra du Rhin in Strasbourg he sang *La finta giardiniera*, *Così fan tutte*, *Don Giovanni* and *Abduction from the Seraglio*, at the Opéra de Nice *The flying Dutchman*, at the Opéra de Marseille *Peter Grimes*, at the Grand Théâtre de Tours and Théâtre de Rennes the *Magic Flute* and the title role in Massenet's *Werther*. In Toulouse he sang Haydn's *Le Pescatrici* and Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, in Rouen *Der Freischütz* in the Weber/Berlioz version, in Montpellier *Roméo et Juliette*, in Metz *Aïda*, and for the Festival International de Radio France et de Montpellier the title role of *Don Giovanni* by G.Gazzaniga. In the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. he sang Herodes in *Salome* by Strauss.

Concerts and oratorios have included: Mozart's *c-minor Mass* at the Salzburg Festival, Mahler's *8th Symphony* in the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., Verdi's *Requiem* and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra in Tokyo as well as in Bordeaux, Vichy, Strasbourg, Nice, Paris, Toulouse, Marseille, Dresden, Halle, Tel Aviv, Sarajewo, Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Paris, Toulouse, Lausanne, Philadelphia, Washington, Madrid, Sevilla, Bilbao, Valencia, Barcelona, Lisbon, Porto and Stuttgart, Berlioz' *La Damnation de Faust* in Sevilla, Luxembourg and Strasbourg, Berlioz' *Requiem* in Orange and Valencia, Berlioz' *Te Deum* in Salle Pleyel in Paris, Honegger's *Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher* in Paris and Montpellier, Mahler's *Das klagende Lied* in Salle Pleyel in Paris and in Lyon, Liszt's *Faust-Symphony* in Strasbourg, Britten's *Serenade* in Tel Aviv and with Orchestre de Bretagne, Britten's *Les Illuminations* with Orchestre d'Auvergne, Bach's *b-minor Mass* and *St. Matthew-Passion* in Munich's Herkules concert hall, Händel's *Cecilian Ode* in the Alte Oper in Frankfurt, Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*, Bruckner's *Te Deum*, Liszt's *Missa solennis* and Wolf's *Der Corregidor* in Stuttgart's Liederhalle, Liszt's *Faust Symphony* in Strasbourg, *Elias*

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in Paris (Festival de St. Denis) with the London Symphony Orchestra, Dvorak's **Stabat Mater**, Rossini's **Stabat Mater**, **Carmina Burana**, Schumann's **Faust-Szenen** and **Das Paradies und die Peri** in Lisbon for the Fundação Gulbenkian, Mendelssohn's **Paulus** in the Cologne Philharmonic, Gossec's **Requiem** at the Festival de la Chaise-Dieu, Beethoven's **Christ on the Mount of Olives** and Haydn's **Creation** in Paris (Festival de St. Denis) at Mont Saint Michel and in Lourdes, Rossini's **Petite Messe solennelle** at the Svjatoslav Richter Festival,

Bruckner's **Te Deum** with the Orchester der Beethovenhalle Bonn, Dvorak's **Requiem** in Santiago, Chile and in Madrid (Teatro Reale). With J.-C. Malgoire he recorded **Carmen Saeculare** by Philidor for ERATO, **Tannhäuser** with B. Haitink for EMI, Lidarti's **Ester** (in Hebrew) with F. Layer for ACCORD, **Das Lied von der Erde** with A. Jordan for ACCORD and also with M. Sieghart for EXTON, and Beethoven's **Ninth Symphony** with J. Nelson for AMBROISIE.

He has collaborated with important conductors such as Rudolf Barshai, Serge Baudo, Gary Bertini, Michael Boder, Franz Brüggen, Jean-Claude Casadesus, Aldo Ceccato, Riccardo Chailly, Sergiu Comissiona, Jonathan Darlington, Ivan Fischer, Lawrence Foster, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Hans Graf, Theodor Guschelbauer, Bernard Haitink, Pedro Halffter, Philippe Herreweghe, Eliahu Imbal, Paavo Järvi, Marek Janowski, Armin Jordan, Emmanuel Krivine, Gustav Kuhn, Jan Latham Koenig, Alain Lombard, Jean-Claude Malgoire, Kurt Masur, Kent Nagano, Garcia Navarro, John Nelson, Eiji Oue, Seiji Ozawa, Michel Plasson, David Shallon, Leonard Slatkin, Evgeny Svetlanov, Emil Tchakarov, Michelangelo Veltri and Edo de Waart.

Numerous radio and television productions document his extensive accomplishments. He enjoys an international reputation not only as an engaged opera singer and concert performer but also as a distinguished pedagogue. He has given master classes at the Rubin Academy in Tel Aviv, at the Israel Vocal Arts Institute in Jaffa, and at the Daniel Ferro Vocal Program in Greve, Italy. He is tenured professor of voice at the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik (University of Music) in Karlsruhe, Germany. His students have come from over 25 countries and have won numerous prizes in international voice competitions (e.g. Belvedere in Vienna, Viñas in Barcelona, ARD in Munich, Mendelssohn in Berlin, Bertelsmann "New Voices", and the International Wagner Competition in Bayreuth).