

Donald Litaker - Tenor

SHORT BIOGRAPHY (October 2007)

The tenor Donald Litaker won First Prize in four important singing competitions in the USA. He studied with Daniel Ferro (Juilliard School, New York) and Giorgio Favaretto (Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy).

Litaker has sung leading roles in all of Europe as well as in the USA, Israel, Japan, South America, and South Africa. His repertoire includes all of the major tenor roles of Mozart and many major roles of Wagner, Verdi, Strauss, and Mahler. In much demand is his extensive french repertoire. He is a well known interpreter of modern 20th century music, especially works by Stravinsky, Hindemith, Enescu, Britten, and Berio.

He has sung in the Salzburg Festival, Maggio Musicale, Holland Festival, International Festival of Radio France, Paris Festival, Svjatoslav Richter Festival, and Ludwigsburg Festival. 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 recordings as well as 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 University of Music in Karlsruhe, Germany. His students have come from over 25 countries. They appear on major stages worldwide and have won numerous prizes in international voice competitions (e.g. Belvedere in Vienna, Viñas in Barcelona, ARD in Munich, Bertelsmann "New Voices ", and the International Wagner Competition in Bayreuth).