

ERIC OWENS, BASS-BARITONE

Bass-baritone **Eric Owens** has a unique reputation as an esteemed interpreter of classic works and a champion of new music. Equally at home in orchestral, recital, and operatic repertoire, Mr. Owens brings his powerful poise, expansive voice, and instinctive acting faculties to stages around the world.

Mr. Owens has created an uncommon niche for himself in the ever-growing body of contemporary opera works through his determined tackling of new and challenging roles. He received great critical acclaim for portraying the title role in the world premiere of Elliot Goldenthal's *Grendel* with the Los Angeles Opera, and again at the Lincoln Center Festival, in a production directed and designed by Julie Taymor. Mr. Owens also enjoys a close association with John Adams, for whom he performed the role of General Leslie Groves in the world premiere of *Doctor Atomic* at the San Francisco Opera, and of the Storyteller in the world premiere of *A Flowering Tree* at Peter Sellars's New Crowned Hope Festival in Vienna and later with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. *Doctor Atomic* was later recorded and received the 2012 Grammy for Best Opera Recording. Mr. Owens made his Boston Symphony Orchestra debut under the baton of David Robertson in Adams's Nativity oratorio *El Niño*.

Mr. Owens's career operatic highlights include Alberich in the Metropolitan Opera's Ring Cycle directed by Robert Lepage; his San Francisco Opera debut in *Otello* conducted by Donald Runnicles; his Royal Opera, Covent Garden, debut in *Norma*; *Vodnik* in *Rusalka* at Lyric Opera of Chicago; the title role in Handel's *Hercules* with the Canadian Opera Company; *Aida* at Houston Grand Opera; *Rigoletto*, *Il Trovatore*, and *La Bohème* at Los Angeles Opera; *Die Zauberflöte* for his Paris Opera (Bastille) debut; and *Ariodante* and *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* at the English National Opera. He sang Collatinus in a highly-acclaimed Christopher Alden production of Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* at Glimmerglass Opera. A former member of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, Mr. Owens has sung Sarastro, Mephistopheles in *Faust*, Frère Laurent, Angelotti in *Tosca*, and Aristotle Onassis in the world premiere of *Jackie O* (available on the Argo label) with that company. Mr. Owens is featured on two Telarc recordings with the Atlanta Symphony: Mozart's *Requiem* and scenes from Strauss' *Elektra* and *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, both conducted by Donald Runnicles. He is featured on the Nonesuch Records release of *A Flowering Tree*.

Mr. Owens has been recognized with multiple honors, including the 2003 Marian Anderson Award, a 1999 ARIA award, second prize in the Plácido Domingo Operalia Competition, the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and the Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition.