



SIMON K. LEE,
TENOR

Tenor Simon K. Lee was born in Busan, South Korea where he began his musical training. He moved to Italy, where it was discovered that he had a natural affinity for the verismo style. Carlos Montané and Mtro Ubaldo Gardini gave him confidence that his voice suits for Verdi and Puccini.

Mr. Lee went on to perform a recital at the first annual Festival Notte Musicali Modenesi in Italy. Mr. Lee then moved to the United States where he participated in the Sherrill Milnes Opera Program and while there worked with Sherrill Milnes and Inci Bashar.

Under the direction of world renowned opera singers, Jennifer Larmore and Giacomo Aragall, Mr. Lee continued his career to include his Carnegie Hall debut for Haydn's Paukenmesse with the New England Symphony, Giles Corey in Crucible, Cavaradossi in Tosca, Calaf in Turandot, Rodolfo in La Boheme, Alfredo in La Traviata, Radames in Aida, Duke in Rigoletto, Manrico in Il Trovatore, Riccardo in Un Ballo in Maschera, Rodolfo in La Boheme, 3rd Jew in Salome, Luigi in Il Tabarro, Rinuccio in GianniSchicchi and even a rarely heard Verdi opera the I Lombardi in his Chicago Premiere with the da Corneto Opera as Arvino.

Mr. Lee has appeared in the leading tenor roles with companies in the US, Europe as well as in Asia. Mr. Lee has performed with such companies as Singapore Lyric Opera, Busan Natoyan Opera, Opera New Hampshire, Vail Opera, Palm Desert Opera, the Gold & Treasure Coast Operas, Panama City Opera, Utah Festival Opera, da Corneto Opera, Chamber Opera Chicago, Chicago Festival Opera, Kansas City Puccini Festival, Opera North Carolina, Opera Tulsa, Sunstate Opera, Teatro Lirico D'Europa and World Classical Musical Society. A two time recipient of awards from the National Bel Canto Foundation,

Mr. Lee has utilized his flair with Italian music to his advantage in scores of solo concerts and recitals around the Midwest, including a gala concert in which the musical artists of North and South Korea performed together on the same Chicago stage for the first time.

In 2016-18 his engagements included Radames in Aida, Cavaradossi in Tosca, Il Duca in Rigoletto and Don Jose in Carmen with Teatro Lirico D'Europa and numerous concerts throughout the United States. He also appeared as the Opera singer for Jane Austen's Persuasion - Musical Drama with Chamber Opera Chicago's UK and Canada tour in 2013 through 2018 include Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mr. Lee lives in Woodridge, IL.



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OPERATIC REPERTOIRE

Bellini:

Polione - Norma

Bizet:

Don Jose – Carmen

Donizetti:

Edgardo - Lucia di Lammermoor

Gounod:

Faust - Faust

Menotti:

Goya - Goya

Puccini:

Rodolfo - La Boheme

Ramerez - La Fanciulla del West

Cavaradossi - Tosca

Luigi - Il Tabarro

Rinucio - Gianni Schicchi

Calaf – Turandot

Strauss:

Jew - Salome

Verdi:

Radames - Aida

Riccardo - Un ballo in maschera

Il Duca di Mantova – Rigoletto

Manrico - Il trovatore

Arvino, Oronte - I Lombardi

Ismaele - Nabucco

Ernani – Ernani

Macduff - Macbeth

Don Alvaro - La forza del destino

Alfredo - La traviata

Ward:

Giles Corey – Crucible

ORCHESTRAL/ORATORIO REPERTOIRE

Haydn:

Paukenmesse

Mozart:

Requiem

Coronation Mass

Verdi:

Requiem



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OPERA HOUSES/THEATRES

Singapore Lyric Opera
Busan Natoyan Opera
Opera New Hampshire
Vail Opera Associate
Palm Desert Opera
Panama City Opera
The Gold & Treasure Coast Operas
Utah Festival Opera
da Corneto Opera
Chamber Opera Chicago
Chicago Festival Opera
Kansas City Puccini Festival
Opera North Carolina
Opera Tulsa

Sunstate Opera
Newberry Opera House
Teatro Lirico D'Europa
World Classical Musical Society
La Porte Symphony
Elgin Symphony
Orchestra di Parma
Opera Viva
Elgin Opera
Choral Indiana Symphony Orchestra
New England Symphony
Chicago City Symphony
Chicago Classical Philharmonic
Soiree Lyrique Festival

CONDUCTORS

Andy Anderson
Bruno Bartoletti
Steve Blackwelder
Marco Guidarini
Kostis Protopapas
Richard Schulze

Robert Ashen
Victoria Bond
Marco Evangelisti
Rudy Macciocchi
Elaine Rinaldi
Barbara Day Turner

STAGE DIRECTORS

Tito Capobianco
Giorgio Lalov
Kyle A. Dougan
Mario Laurenti

Robert Gailbrath
James Marvels
Daniel Helfgot
Sir Andrew Sinclair



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REVIEWS

Turandot, Utah Festival Opera

"The absolute highlight of the evening was Lee's performance of one of Opera's greatest arias, "Nessun Dorma" His projection and power was stunning, and the energy was contagious."

Matt Wright, The Utah Statesman

Carmen, Palmetto Opera, SC

Simon Kyung Lee became Don Jose, the man who is willing to sacrifice everything for Carmen's love. His excellent voice and top-notch acting completely captured the hearts of our audience.

Kathy Newman, Chair, The Palmetto Opera

La Boheme, Singapore Lyric Opera

"It was Simon Kyung Lee that most deserved to be congratulated for his Rodolfo. His was a more than decent tenor voice and one whose effect was accentuated by his capacity for acting: his Che gelida manina was delivered with such feeling, cheek and roguish charm that it was actually possible to believe that Mimi would fall in love with this young poet on the strength of this one song alone.

Karin, The Inkpot, Singapore

Il Trovatore, da Corneto Opera

"Tenor Simon Kyung Lee, a Manrico who produced a surprisingly Italianate and large sound as well as right-on-the-button high Cs for his Di quella pira aria."

Richard Covello, Chicago Tribune

La Boheme, Teatro Lirico D'Europa US Tour 2017

"Tenor Simon Kyung Lee as Rodolfo played up early, tentative flirtations in Act I admirably, and sang with verve and gusto throughout the night, an absolute must for the tortuousness love affair to resound deeply with their audience."

Kyle Peterson, Jasper Press, Columbia, SC

"Mimi! The moment Rodolfo shouted out, anguished and painful - moved the audience's feelings to great tears. When the curtain came down, the audience responded with a long-standing ovation. The main cast was exceptionally great. Rodolfo (Korean Tenor Simon Lee) sang with vibrato and ringing high notes reminding of Jusse Bjorling (One of the great tenors in the 20 century) and made a great appearance on the stage"

Myoung Lim, Korea Daily News



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REVIEWS(Cont.)

"I saw several folks with tears in their eyes after the final scene— ample testimony of the compelling acting ability of the principal performers. Cheers to Simon Kyung Lee (Rodolfo), Olga Orlovskaya (Mimi) and Stanislava Ivanova (Musetta) for their powerful vocal performances."

Bob Borich, Chairman, Panama City (FL) Music Association

Tosca, Teatro Lirico D'Europa US Tour 2015

"Simon Lee, Cavaradossi had a great voice and acting was very convinced."

Jessica Gloria, Director, Miramar Cultural Center

"Cavaradossi was a wonderful actor, very dramatic and a beautiful voice."

Mary De Turk, Johnson Theatre, Durham, NH

Rigoletto, Teatro Lirico US Tour "it was joy to have Simon Kyung Lee back again in a lead role, this time as the villainous Duke. The audience loved the performance and gave the cast a vociferous and enthusiastic response."

Bob Borich, Panama City Music Association

"RIGOLETTO was superb! Your soloists soared. You could hear a pin drop as Lee's La donna e mobile began and the applause that followed was thunderous."

Deborah Smith, Newberry Opera House, Newberry

Turandot, Teatro Lirico US Tour 2010-2011 "Thanks! I love the leads...Orchestra was great. Tenor Simon Lee's aria-Nessun Dorma was worth the price of admission."

Clifford D. Herron, Dean, Mattie Kelly Arts Center

Turandot, Utah Festival Opera

"Calaf (Simon Kyung Lee), The South Korea-born tenor demonstrating enough vocal heft to keep up with the imposing soprano. Singing the opera's signature aria, "Nessun dorma" Lee held the climactic high note long enough to thrill but not grandstand. Lee's voice grew with richer shadings and dramatic inflection as the opera progressed."

Robert Coleman, Salt Lake Tribune



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REVIEWS(Cont.)

Turandot, Kansas City Puccini Festival

“Tenor Simon Kyung Lee sang Calaf with a meaty and disciplined tenor, short on perfumed subtlety but long on vigor. His quiet presence engaged the eye, and he made the well-worn "Nessun dorma" brilliantly moving.”
Paul Horsley, Kansas City Star

La Boheme, Singapore Lyric Opera

Simon Kyung Lee sang a spirited, unsentimental Che Gelida Manina that to me is quite refreshing, quite a change from the throbbing, lovelorn traditional way of in interpreting. He seems rather intent on being loud and louder throughout the evening (although there are attempts to sing softer); I can see why this would be irritating in a concert setting where without proper theatrical context, but in this full opera production I thought he was quite lively despite this, his interactions with colleagues quite spontaneous. Plus, there's no fear of not being able to hear him loud and clear. His anguished cries of “Mimi” at the opera's end moved me the most.”

Christopher, Business times, Singapore

Romantic & Tragic Love, Singapore Lyric Opera

Korean tenor Simon Kyung Lee was the highlight of tonight's programme. He opened with a powerful “Celeste Aida”. His declamatory recitative was perfectly executed, his voice was ringing and, on several occasions, resonated well into the concert hall, and Simon intelligently used this to its maximum effect. His Rodolfo in La Boheme was biting, with ringing high Cs in “Che gelida manina”, and convincing acted and sung in “O Soave Fanciulla”. Hearing the excerpts from La Boheme one would warmly anticipate his appearance in the full opera in January. Simon Lee was indeed a powerful tenor: after the intermission, his singing of Bizet's “Au fond du temple saint” (from Les pecheurs des perles) was powerfully done. His acting and singing in carmen was so earnest and powerful that one wonders why Carmen was unmoved and rejected Don Jose love.”

Christopher, Business times, Singapore

“Dominating the stage was Korean Tenor Simon Kyung Lee, one who delights in his heroic glory voice. Those peaks in Verdi's Celeste Aida and Puccini's Che gelida manina were well within his blooming mechanism.”
Liang, Strait Times



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REVIEWS(Cont.)

Evening of Opera, American Opera Group

“The final blockbuster is tenor Simon Kyung Lee in Puccini's gripping "Nessun dorma". According to artistic director R. Paul Williams, Lee is poised to vie for the spot left vacant by the passing of Luciano Pavarotti.”
Wilkinson, Journal of Oak Park & River Forest

Buona Notte Pavarotti, Onesti Production

“One of 3 tenors, Korean-born tenor Simon Kyung Lee made audience feel thrilling especially when he sang "Nessun dorma" made standing ovation.”

Bong, Korea Times Chicago

Tosca, Kansas City Puccini Festival

“Simon Kyung Lee proved to be an emotionally satisfying Cavaradossi, the smitten artist who makes up the other half of this pair of star-crossed lovers. His expressive tenor grew stronger as the evening progressed, and blended beautifully with Scozzafava's in the lovers' proclamation of emotions in the third act.”

Robert Eisele, Kansas City Star

I Lombardi, da Corneto Opera

“Simon Kyung Lee, in the Stand-and-deliver part of Arvino, did just that.”

John von Rhein, Chicago Tribune



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