



SIMON K. LEE, TENOR

Tenor Simon Kyung Lee began his musical career in his hometown of Busan, South Korea at an early age. It was upon a move to Italy that it was discovered that he had a natural affinity for the Verismo style. Under the guidance of Carlos Montané and Mtro. Ubaldo Gardini he was able to effortlessly increase his vocal power. With his Italian studies he began to take command of works by Italian greats such as Verdi and Puccini.

Mr. Lee enjoyed the culmination of that work at a recital at the first annual Festival Notte Musicali Modenesi in Italy. From there he moved to the United States where he participated in the Sherrill Milnes Opera Program, working under the guidance of Sherrill Milnes and Inci Bashar. It was under the direction of world renowned opera singers, Jennifer Larmore and Giacomo Aragall, that Mr. Lee was able to quickly advance his career to include his Carnegie Hall debut for Haydn's Paukenmesse with New England Symphony, Giles Corey in *Crucible*, Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, Calaf in *Turandot*, Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Radames in *Aida*, Duca in *Rigoletto*, Manrico in *Il Trovatore*, Riccardo in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, 3rd Jew in *Salome*, Luigi in *Il Tabarro*, Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* and even a rarely heard Verdi opera the *I Lombardi* in his Chicago Premiere with the da Corneto Opera as Arvino.

He has appeared as leading tenor with companies in the United States and Europe as well as in Asia, include Singapore Lyric 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.

Lee's 2016-18 engagements included Radames in *Aida*, Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, Duca in *Rigoletto* and Don José in *Carmen*, Calaf in *Turandot* with Teatro Lirico D'Europa. In 2014-19, He has also appeared as soloist in the production "Persuasion" with Chamber Opera Chicago's U.K summer tours include Edinburgh Summer Festival, UK and continue to sing numerous concerts throughout the United States.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 brought unprecedented challenges to the Performing Arts Industry. However, Mr. Lee's resilience shone through as he seized online platforms to honor Classical Music through several virtual concerts, enriching the local musical landscape within limitations. His return to the stage was marked by a successful performance in Chamber Opera Chicago's production of "Jane Austen's Persuasion" during the pandemic. Beginning 2024 on a high note, he mesmerized audiences with a sold-out portrayal of Calaf in "Turandot" at St. Pete Opera, garnering resounding success. Venturing into new territories, Mr. Lee had set to make his debut in Croatia as a guest soloist at the esteemed Noctes Aquae Iasae Festival, further solidifying his reputation as a versatile and accomplished tenor on the international opera scene.

Mr. Lee is a faculty member of Operamaya, Summer Opera Program in Mexico, also teaches at Chamber Opera Chicago Studio and private studio in Chicagoland. He currently resides in the Chicago Suburb of Woodridge, Illinois.

Upcoming engagements include Cavaradossi (*Tosca*) with Opera Classica Europa and numerous concerts.



MIA Artists Management

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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*

Rinuncio – *Gianni Schicchi*

Calaf – *Turandot*

Strauss:

Jew - *Salome*

Verdi:

Radames – *Aida*

Riccardo – *Un ballo in Maschera*

Il Duca – *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/THEATERS

Carnegie Hall
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

Summer Festival Modena
St. Petersburg Opera
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

CONDUCTORS

Andy Anderson
Bruno Bartoletti
Steve Blackwelder
Mark Sforzini
Philip Morehead
Marco Guidarini
Kostis Protopapas

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



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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
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

Il Trovatore, da Corneto Opera

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

Richard Covello, Chicago Tribune

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

La Boheme, Teatro Lirico D'Europa US Tour

"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 tortuous love affair to resound deeply with their audience."

Kyle Peterson, Jasper Press

Rigoletto, Teatro Lirico US Tour

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

Bob Borich, Panama City Music Association



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REVIEWS (Cont.)

Rigoletto, Teatro Lirico US Tour

"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

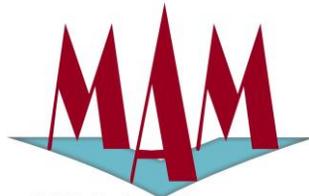
Tosca, Kansas City Puccini Festival

"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

Translation of TOSCA review from THE KOREAN DAILY NEWS/Chicago

It was simply a magnificent performance! ... tenor Simon Kyung Lee was Cavaradossi sang the role of Cavadossi with conviction and clarity of voice quality throughout the performance, specially outstanding in his desperate aria "E lucevan le stelle" which brought tears of emotion.... At the conclusion of Act III the entire audience responded with h a HUGE LONG-STANDING OVATION for several minutes. After the show, many members of the audience expressed how much they enjoyed the evening and hoped there will be many more to come in the future."

Min Kim, Reporter — Korea Daily News



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