



## ***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 increased 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

## ***SIMON K. LEE, TENOR***

### **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*



# ***SIMON K. LEE, TENOR***

## **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



# ***SIMON K. LEE, TENOR***

## **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-the-button 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**



## ***SIMON K. LEE, TENOR***

### **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**

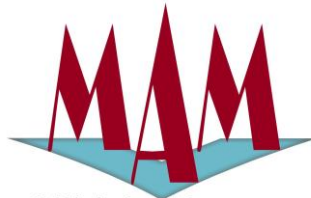
"Simon Kyung Lee proved to be an emotionally satisfying Cavaradossi, the smitten artist who makes up the other half of this pair of star-crossed lovers. His expressive tenor grew stronger as the evening progressed and blended beautifully with Scozzafava's in the lovers' proclamation of emotions in the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