



CHRISTOPHER MATTALIANO
GENERAL DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 5, 2010

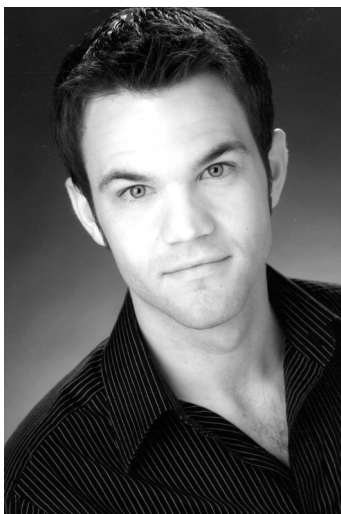
CONTACT: Julia Sheridan, 503-295-3508, jsheridan@portlandopera.org

PORTLAND OPERA STUDIO ARTISTS RECITAL

Tenor

Steven Brennfleck

Tuesday, February 9, 7:00pm | Sherman Clay Pianos



Enjoy an unforgettable evening of vocal chamber music when the spotlight shines on tenor **STEVEN BRENNFLECK** in the third Portland Opera Studio Artists Recital of the 2009/10 Season. These Studio Artists Recitals have proven very popular, turning into standing-room-only events. The intimate nature of the recitals allows the audience an opportunity to experience the close relationship between composer, singer and accompanist.

In his first season as a Studio Artist, tenor **STEVEN BRENNFLECK** has sung Parpignol in *La Bohème*, and Cegeste in *Orphée* and will sing Trio in *Trouble in Tahiti*, Testo in *Il Combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda*, Ombre in *Il ballo delle ingrate* and Officer in *The Barber of Seville*. He covered Heurtebise in *Orphée*, and will cover Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* and Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville*. Steven comes to us from Trenton, New Jersey. His opera credits include Giuseppe in *La Traviata* at Glimmerglass Opera; Un Medico in *La Bella Dormiente* and Un Dombien in *Lakmé* at Spoleto Festival USA; Lauri in *Little Women*, Remendado in *Carmen*, Gaby in *New York circa 1950*, Trio in *Trouble in Tahiti* and Flute/Thisby in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Westminster Opera Theater; Dr. Binch in *Elmer Gantry* at Montclair State University with Nashville Opera. Steven has been a Soloist with Princeton Pro Musica, Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, Princeton Youth Orchestra, Princeton Baroque Orchestra and Westminster Choral Festival. He received both his Masters and Bachelor of Music from Westminster Choir College. He was the winner of the 2008 Metropolitan

Opera National Council District Auditions in New Jersey and a finalist in The Marion Anderson Prize for Emerging Classical Artists. Last summer he was a member of the Glimmerglass Opera Young American Artists Program.

Steven Brennfleck Recital Program:

Gabriel Faure: *Poeme d'un jour*

A little triptych taking us on a whirlwind tour of a love affair, from magical first encounter, through the pain of splitting to final acceptance and resolution.

Robert Schumann: *Liederkreis Op. 24* (Heine)

Containing some of Schumann's first great masterpieces in the medium, this outpouring of emotion from the beginning of his 'Year of Song' (1840) is ever fresh, and intensely moving. In this, one of the cornerstones of the song-cycle literature, every element of Heine's beautiful poetry is given radiant life by Schumann's deep romanticism.

INTERMISSION

Gerald Finzi: *A Young Man's Exhortation* (Hardy)

A short cycle in two parts, this series of ten settings of Thomas Hardy's poetry begins with the author as a young man, and takes us through his life and loves to the end. True to its composer's and the poet's English heritage, the cycle has a quintessentially English pastoral quality, abounding with folk songs, march tunes, vibrant figures from the Wessex countryside and a pervading bittersweet, wistful tone of reflection.

The program will last approximately seventy-five minutes with intermission.

WHAT: Portland Opera Studio Artists Recital: **Steven Brennfleck** accompanied by Portland Opera Chorus Master & Principal Coach **Robert Ainsley**.

Recommended donation to support the Portland Opera Studio Artist program: \$10.

WHEN: 7:00pm, Tuesday, February 9, 2010.

WHERE: Sherman Clay Pianos | 131 NW 13th Ave.

For more information call Portland Opera, 503-241-1407 or
visit us at www.portlandopera.org

#