

Takaoki Onishi, baritone

Baritone Takaoki Onishi is quickly gaining recognition as one of the most talented singers of his generation. A member of Chicago Lyric Opera's Ryan Opera Center program, Mr. Onishi covered the title role in *Eugene Onegin*, and performed roles in *Onegin*, *Les Troyens*, and *Carmen* during the 2016-2017 season. During the spring/summer of 2017, he sang Mahler's *Songs of a Wayfarer* with the Elgin Symphony, as well as Roberto Sierra's *Missa Latina* at the Grant Park Music Festival. He also returned to his native Japan for several concerts. Last season, in Chicago, Mr. Onishi shared a recital program with Renée Fleming and appeared in a Gala tribute to Plácido Domingo.

Mr. Onishi returns this season (2017-2018) for his third year with Chicago Lyric's Ryan Opera Center program, where he will sing Marullo in *Rigoletto* and cover the roles of Riccardo in *I Puritani*, Zurga in *Les Pêcheur des Perles*, and Ping in *Turandot*. In his debut with the company, during the 2015-16 season, he created the role of Father Arguedas in the world premiere performances of *Bel Canto*, a production that was recorded and later telecast on PBS.

He also has had an impressive series of successes in major vocal competitions. He was the inaugural First Prize winner of the IFAC-Juilliard Prize Singing Competition in Japan, which provided him a full scholarship to attend The Juilliard School. In just one year (2013), he won the Top Prize in the Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition, and the First Prize in both the Opera Index, Inc. Vocal Competition and the Licia Albanese-Puccini International Vocal Competition.