

JUSTIN AUSTIN Bio

Praised in *Opera News* as “a gentle actor and elegant musician”, baritone Justin Austin has been performing professionally since age 4. Born in Stuttgart, Germany to professional opera singer parents, Austin began his singing career as a boy soprano performing at venues such as Teatro Real, Bregenzer Festspiele, Avery Fisher Hall (now David Geffen Hall), and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts . While working with directors such as Götz Friedrich and Tazewell Thompson, Justin was able to realize his love for music and performance early on.

For the 2018/19 season Mr. Austin returns to New York Festival of Song and will make solo debuts with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Copland House, Mise-En-Scène Studios, Bayerische Staatsoper, and the Munich Opera Festival. Mr. Austin spent Summer 2018 as a Solo Artist at the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis featured in concert, recital, and on the mainstage singing the role of Cal in Marc Blitzstein's "Regina" Directed by James Robinson and conducted by maestro Stephen Lord. For the 2017/18 season Austin was a Resident Artist at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis and made solo debuts with Carnegie Hall , Kamnagel, Master Voices, the Glimmerglass Festival, and the Larimer Chorale. Austin also made his return to New York Festival of Song, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the Kaufman Music Center.

For the 2016-17 season, Austin made debuts at the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts as a "Schwab Vocal Rising Star", New York Festival Of Song in their "Emerging Artist Series", Opera Theatre of Saint Louis as a "Richard Gaddes Festival Artist", and Heidelberger Frühling as a "Lied Scholar". Mr. Austin was honored by the historic National Association of Negro Musicians Inc. and named the National Winner of their prestigious Vocal Performance Scholarship. Summer 2016, Mr. Austin created the role of Pyarelal Kaul in the critically acclaimed world premier of the opera "Shalimar The Clown" by Jack Perla and Rajiv Joseph at the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis. Austin was also featured on the commercial recording of "Shalimar the Clown" released by Albany Records.

While a bachelor's degree candidate at the Manhattan School of Music , Austin made his professional debut with Landestheater Linz as Jake in Gerwhin's "Porgy and Bess". He reprised this role at Grand Théâtre de Genève during the 2015/16 season as well as created the role of The Chief in the film adaptation of Odeline Martinez's "Imoinda", directed by Hope Clark and produced by the National Opera Center of America. Mr. Austin was featured at the Manhattan School of Music performing the roles of Sabari in Cavalli's "La Doriclea", Dr.Malatesta in Donizetti's "Don Pasquale" and as a soloist in Haydn's "Die Schöpfung", Monteverdi's "Vespers", Mendelssohn's "Elijah", and Brahms' "Ein Deutsches Requiem". Additionally Justin has performed the roles of Giuseppe in Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Gondoliers", Harlequin in R. Strauss' "Ariadne auf Naxos", Elviro in Handel's "Xerxes", Etienne in Victor Herbert's "Naughty Marietta", and as the baritone soloist in Schubert's "Mass No.2", Handel's "Messiah", Theodore

Dubois' "Seven Last Words of Christ", and Bach's "Matthäuspassion".

As a multifaceted musician, Mr. Austin performs a wide range of repertoire from Jazz, R&B, and Musical Theatre, to Opera and Oratorio. Justin has collaborated with multiple groups and artists such as Aretha Franklin, The Boys Choir of Harlem, Mary J. Blidge, Elton John, Lauryn Hill, The Roots, 30 Seconds to Mars, John Cale, Ricky Ian Gordon, and jazz legends Reggie Workman, Hugh Masekela, and Wynton Marsalis.

Justin strongly believes in utilizing his artistry to benefit music programs, new music projects, and community services around the world. To do so, he works with organizations such as MEND (Meeting Emergency Needs with Dignity), Water is Life Kenya, and St. Mary's Children's Hospital to construct and perform benefit concerts. The proceeds of these projects supply emergent living essentials to those in need. Inspired by the importance of new music and collaboration, Mr. Austin has performed and recorded operatic, song, and oratorio world premiers by Wynton Marsalis, Avner Finberg, M. Roger Holland, Jack Perla, Peter Andreatchi, Damien Sneed, & Odeline de la Martinez.

Austin has won awards from organizations such as The Recording Academy, NAACP, George London Foundation Awards Competition, Benjamin Mathews Vocal Competition, Gerda Lissner International Vocal Competition (Lieder/Song and Opera), Eisenberg-Fried Concerto Competition, and the NANM National Vocal Competition.

Justin is a proud graduate of the Choir Academy of Harlem, Laguardia Arts, Heidelberg Lied Akademie, and Manhattan School of Music holding a Bachelor of Music Degree and a Master of Music Degree. Mr. Austin is under the tutelage and mentorship of Catherine Malfitano.