

Takaoki Onishi, baritone, is a native of Japan. He was the Inaugural First Prize winner of the IFAC-Juilliard Singing Competition. This prize provided him with full scholarship to attend The Juilliard School. Upon graduation, he joined the prestigious Ryan Opera Ensemble of Lyric Opera of Chicago. He made his debut there as Father Arguedas in the World Premiere of BEL CANTO (telecast on PBS). He remained with the company for three years, singing many roles.

Each season, Mr. Onishi sings a wide variety of opera, concerts and recitals in the US, Japan and Europe.

This past summer, he sang the title role of EUGENE ONEGIN at the Seiji Ozawa Festival, conducted by Fabio Luisi. He made his Vienna debut at the Musikverein in Beethoven's 9th Symphony, a work he also sang in Tokyo and Beijing. He also made his debut with NHK Symphony in FIDELIO, and very recently returned to that orchestra for their New Year's Gala concert.

In 2019-20, he sings I PAGLIACCI with North Carolina Opera, Brahms' German Requiem with The Oratorio Society of NY at Carnegie Hall, MADAMA BUTTERFLY with Opera Company of Philadelphia and DAS LIED VON DER ERDE in Osaka.

Mr. Onishi has won top prizes in many vocal competitions, including Opera Index, Gerda Lissner, Giulio Gari, and most recently, in the Premiere Opera International Competition, he received both 1st Prize and the special Dmitry Hvorostovsky Prize, in honor of that great singer.