

James Valenti, tenor

American tenor James Valenti has been hailed for having a voice of Italianate beauty, for his handsome stage presence, ardent singing and for his elegant musicianship in performances with the leading opera companies of the world. His repertoire encompasses the romantic leading roles of both Italian and French repertoire. Considered one of his generation's brightest rising stars, Valenti received the prestigious Richard Tucker Award in April 2010, recognizing an American singer poised on the edge of international stardom.

The announcement of the award coincided with Valenti's auspicious debut at the Metropolitan Opera as Alfredo in the Zeffirelli production of *La traviata* opposite Angela Gheorghiu and Thomas Hampson. He also sang Alfredo for his Royal Opera debut at Covent Garden. Of these debuts *The New York Times* noted the 6' 5" tenor's "dashing presence and virile voice" and London's *Observer* called his Alfredo "glorious."

During the 2011-12 season Valenti reprises his role as Alfredo in *La Traviata* at Covent Garden opposite the legendary Leo Nucci and the Violetta of Marina Poplavskaya, with whom he makes his Bavarian State Opera Munich debut in the same role. Other season highlights include a last minute jump in as the title role in *Faust* at the Royal Opera House with stars Rene Pape and Dimitri Hvorostovsky, *Werther* with Minnesota Opera, *Lt. Pinkerton* with Palm Beach Opera, and Alfredo in his return to Dallas Opera. Concert engagements include appearances in Copenhagen, Toronto and in St. Petersburg Russia. He looks forward to future debuts with Opera Australia at the Sydney Opera House as Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Zurich Opera and his return to the Metropolitan Opera in upcoming seasons. The American tenor is a guest artist on Ms. Gheorghiu's fall 2011 EMI/Virgin Classics recording.

Among major highlights of 2010/11 Valenti traveled to Japan with the Royal Opera's production of *La Traviata*, opposite Anna Netrebko, Simon Keenlyside under the direction of Antonio Pappano, and returned to Covent Garden as *Lt. Pinkerton* in *Madama Butterfly* (with Andris Nelsons). The production was filmed in 3D to be distributed to theaters worldwide and released on DVD. He made his debut at the Paris Opera Bastille as *Pinkerton*, and was the honoree at the Richard Tucker Foundation Gala at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall. He also sang Maurizio in *Adriana Lecouvreur* in Washington DC, and portrayed the Duke in *Rigoletto* in Michigan and Dallas.

Valenti was named Dallas Opera's 2009 Maria Callas Debut Artist of the Year, recognizing his outstanding debut in *La bohème*. He also sang Rodolfo in Japan under Myung-Whun Chung, gave his first performances of the Verdi Requiem in Bergen, Norway, debuted at the Deutsche Oper Berlin as Alfredo, and sang Mercadante's rarely heard *Il Giuramento* in his Washington Concert Opera debut under Antony Walker. Additionally in 2009/10 he portrayed the Duke in Florence, performed Massenet's *Werther* for the first time with Opera National de Lyon in Tokyo, sang a gala concert at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, portrayed Rodolfo in Minnesota and Santander, Spain, and Pinkerton in Vancouver.

Valenti made his debut in 2009 at Milan's Teatro alla Scala as Rodolfo under the baton of Gustavo Dudamel. He has sung this role at the Teatro Verdi in Trieste, Dresden's Semperoper, New York City Opera, Florida Grand Opera, and for his professional debut in 2003 at the Teatro dell'Opera, Rome. He has portrayed Pinkerton at San Francisco Opera, the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa (conducted by Daniel Oren and directed by Renata Scotto), New York City Opera (including an Emmy Award-winning PBS telecast), the Chicago Symphony at the Ravinia Festival (under James Conlon), the Opéra de Marseille, Michigan Opera Theater and Palm Beach Opera. His Salzburg Festival debut was as Alfredo in a new Willy Decker production of *La traviata* opposite Anna Netrebko and Thomas Hampson, conducted by Carlo Rizzi. Other performances of this signature role have been presented at the Theatre Royale de la Monnaie, Brussels, the Canadian Opera Company, the Hamburg Staatsoper, and the Teatro Comunale in Bologna (under Daniele Gatti). Valenti has sung Faust in Trieste and North Carolina, Roméo with Minnesota Opera, and Nemorino in Hamburg. His repertoire extends to Bernstein's *Candide* (Genoa), and he has also given a recital for the Rosenblatt Series at St. John's Smith Square in London.

James Valenti studied at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia. In addition to the 2010 Richard Tucker Award, he is the recipient many other awards, including the 2002 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the 2002 Licia Albanese-Puccini, 2003 Opera Index, 2003 Mario Lanza, 2004 Violetta Du Pont/Opera Florham, 2004 George London Foundation, 2004 Loren Zachary, and 2004 Caruso International voice competitions. He has received grants from the Singer's Development Foundation, Sergio Franchi Music Foundation and the Sullivan Foundation. He has performed on German and Austrian national television, in Italy on RAI's *Prima della Prima* and in the USA Live from Lincoln Center. Valenti resides in West Palm Beach Florida where he coaches with Virginia Zeani. He continues his vocal studies with Bill Schuman in New York City.