

Spungin, Jonah - Baritone

Biography



Canadian baritone Jonah Spungin, whose voice has been described as “bursting with power, and also full of colours” (*Der Opernfreund*), recently made his German debut as **Jack Rance** in Puccini's *La fanciulla del West* at Landestheater Detmold, where he then took on the role of **Papageno** (*Die Zauberflöte*).

Spungin made his European mainstage debut in 2023 in the role of **Tsargo** in the Swedish premiere of Kaija Saariaho's **Adriana Mater** with Norrlandsoperan, repeating that role in the same production at Savonlinna Opera Festival in 2024. In Sweden, he has also been seen as **Jan Nyman** in the Scandinavian premiere of Missy Mazzoli's *Breaking the Waves* with Vadstena-akademien and at Malmö Opera in the roles of **Ping** (*Turandot*) and **Schaunard** (*La bohème*).

The 2022/23 season saw Spungin singing **King Dovid** in the North American premiere of Henekh Kon's Yiddish opera *Bas Sheve* with the Ashkenaz Festival in Toronto, where he was a member of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio. With the COC, he appeared in such roles as **Dancaïre** in *Carmen*, **Marchese d'Obigny** (*La traviata*), **Marco** (*Gianni Schicchi*), **Second Priest** (*Die Zauberflöte*), and **John/Fantasma** in the world premiere of *Fantasma* by Ian Cusson. His final performance in Toronto was *Les Adieux*, a recital of ballads, legends, and folksongs, recorded and broadcast by the CBC.

Spungin has also been a member of the opera studio at Calgary Opera, where he sang such roles as **Marullo** (*Rigoletto*), **King Melchior** (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*), **Belcore** in an English language touring production of *L'elisir d'amore*, and **Athenodorus the Philosopher** in the world premiere of Veronika Krausas's *Ghost Opera*. During this time he also joined the Calgary Philharmonic for a concert of Händel's *Messiah* excerpts, as well as understudying the title role in Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and ultimately stepping in for the concert.

Jonah holds a Master's in Voice and Opera from McGill University where he sang many roles with Opera McGill, such as **Eisenstein** (*Die Fledermaus*) and **Enrico** (*Lucia di Lammermoor*). He won 2nd prize in the OCS New Discoveries Competition, is a laureate of Opéra de Montréal's Talent 2019 Competition and the Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques Competition, was a finalist in the COC Centre Stage Competition, and a quarterfinalist in the Concours musical international de Montréal.

Spungin is currently a member of the Fest ensemble at Landestheater Detmold.

Repertoire

Opera

Adamo, M.	Little Women	<i>Gideon March</i>
Bizet, G.	Carmen	<i>Dancaire</i>
		<i>Escamillo*</i>
		<i>Morales</i>
Donizetti, G.	L'elisir d'amore	<i>Dulcamara</i>
	Lucia di Lammermoor	<i>Enrico</i>
Garner, J.	East o' the Sun, West o' the Moon	<i>Polar Bear/Prince</i>
Gounod, Ch.	Faust	<i>Valentin*</i>
	Romeo et Juliette	<i>Mercutio*</i>
		<i>Paris</i>
Krausas, V.	Ghost Opera	<i>Athenodorus</i>
		<i>the Philosopher</i>
Lehar, F.	Die lustige Witwe	<i>Baron Marko Zeta</i>
Mazzoli, M.	Breakings the Waves	<i>Jan Nyman</i>
Menotti, G.C.	Amahl and the Night Visitors	<i>King Melchior</i>
Mozart, W.A.	Così fan tutte	<i>Guglielmo*</i>
	Le nozze di Figaro	<i>Il conte Almaviva</i>
Poulenk, F.	Dialogues des Carmelites	<i>Geolier</i>
Puccini, G.	La Bohème	<i>Schaunard</i>
	Gianni Schicchi	<i>Marco</i>
	Madama Butterfly	<i>Yamadori</i>
	Turandot	<i>Ping</i>
Rossini, G.	Il barbiere di Siviglia	<i>Figaro*</i>
Saariaho, K.	Adriana Mater	<i>Tsargo</i>
Strauss, J.	Die Fledermaus	<i>Eisenstein</i>
Strauss, R.	Ariadne auf Naxos	<i>Harlequin*</i>
Verdi, G.	Rigoletto	<i>Marullo</i>
	La traviata	<i>Marchese d'Obigny</i>

*not performed

Symphonic/Oratorio

Beethoven, L.van	Symphony No. 9
Brahms, J.	Requiem*
Durufle,	Requiem
Faure, G.	Requiem
Handel, G.F.	Hercules
	Messiah
Henekh, K.	Bas-Sheve
Leroux, Ph.	Extended Apocalypses
Mendelssohn, F.	Elijah
Rossini, G.	Epetite messe solennelle
Zelenka, J.D.	Missa Votiva

Reviews

La Tvaviata, Landestheatre Detmold, 2025

Baritone Jonah Spungin shone with equal power in his singing and convincing dominance in his portrayal of Giorgio Germont. With a large voice and lots of “fatherly feeling”, his aria Di Provenza il mar, il suol” was a jewel of the evening. The Canadian singer also excelled in the duet in his confrontation with Violetta. A well-deserved round of applause for him as well!”

- *Das Opernmagazin*

Jonah Spungin, as Giorgio Germont (Alfredo's father), impresses with his sonorous baritone and a mixture of severity and fatherly warmth in his radiant timbre.

- *Lippische Landes-Zeitung*

...as Giorgio Germont, or rather Jonah Spungin, is also a baritone as virile as he is cantabile.

- *Der Opernfreund*

La fanciulla del West, Malmö opera, 2025

As Rance, Jonah Spungin offers his deep baritone, equally assured of the high notes – the discovery of the evening.

- *Concerti*

Jonah Spungin's baritone, which is bursting with power, is also full of colours. The young Canadian presents the figure of the sheriff Jack Rance, who is infatuated and imperious with Minnie, in many layers and with quiet nuances.

- *Der OpernFreund*

Turandot, Malmö opera, 2024

...Jonah Spungin, Per Lindström, and Conny Thimander [sang] the three imperial officials Ping, Pang and Pong with equal parts sadness and humor – and a touch of devilry.

- *Operamagasinet Ascolta*

Jonah Spungin, Per Lindström, and Conny Thimander are a fine trio, who manage to make these cardboard figures [of Ping, Pang, and Pong] believable.

- *Svenska Dagbladet*

Adriana Mater, NorrlandsOpera, 2024

Bass-baritone Jonah Spung also quite believably transports Tsargo's character on stage from a pitiful village drunk to a gun-toting bravado, and to a man broken by the anxiety caused by his actions.

- *Savon Sanomat*

Jonah Spungin was a handsome baritone who created a believable and repulsive character from the opera's villain.

- *Itä-Savo*

Die Zauberflöte, Landestheatre Detmold, 2024

The Canadian baritone Jonah Spungin, new in the Ensemble, provided much humour as the bird catcher Papageno.

- *Lippisches Kultur-Journal*

...while Jonah Spungin portrays his Papageno with all the ingredients of slapstick humour, earning many laughs.

- *egotrip*

La bohème, Malmö opera, 2024

But then comes Schaunard... it's almost as if Jonah Spungin's warm timbre helps all the other voices find home and calibrate...

- *Dagens Nyheter*

The voice placement and timbre are great...

- *Le Devoir*

Jonah Spungin was a standout in the role...

- *Opera Canada*

Jonah Spungin, that solid baritone...

- *Les ArtsZé*

Ingenuous aristocrat Gabriel von Eisenstein, zestfully sung by baritone Jonah Spungin...

- *The McGill Daily*

Elijah's four great arias were brilliantly sung by Jonah Spungin...

- *Les ArtsZé*

... the vocal contributions impress with Jonah Spungin's warm baritone as Tsargo...

- *Norrbottens Kuriren*

Jonah Spungin with his lyrical baritone gives human contours to Tsargo...

- *Svenska Dagbladet*

[Jonah's] baritone voice has both attack and frenzy...

- *Västerbottens-Kuriren*

Jonah Spungin is a showstopper: when you hear him sing, you forget there's anything else going on...

- *Toronto Guardian*

A funny Figaro, baritone Jonah Spungin from Ottawa, ON was delightful singing one of the most famous opera arias, Rossini's *Largo al factotum* (Il barbiere di Siviglia). Spungin definitely fully embodied the character...

- *Broadway World Toronto*

Jonah Spungin was incredibly entertaining and exceedingly droll as Pooh-Bah, the obsequious jack-of-all-trades high functionary.

- *The Charlebois Post*

Athenodorus is sung by baritone Jonah Spungin, who has a warm tone and gravity that belies his age... [He] does his part to create the most engaging character in the production.

- *The YYScene*

Jan, with the powerful baritone of Jonah Spungin, can be seen as a bridge between the two worlds...
- *Fler nyheter*

With Jonah Spungin, it is above all the overtone-rich dramatic baritone voice that convinces us of Jan Nyman's virile manpower.
- *Dagens Nyheter*

Jonah Spungin's baritone conveys the weight that the more experienced and skilled Jan has.
- *Svenska Dagbladet*