

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

Turandot, Malmö, 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*

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 YYSce*

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*