

## Henry Griffin, baritone

Henry Griffin, described as “luminous” and “supremely tender” by the Chautauqua Daily, is a 23-year-old baritone who recently graduated with his Bachelor’s from the Manhattan School of Music with the Hugh Ross Award, given annually to a “singer of unusual promise.” There, he studied with Marlena Malas. Henry has sung all of his life including solo boy soprano debuts with the the Chicago Symphony Orchestra at age 11, the Lyric Opera of Chicago at age 12, and solo voice and piano recitals starting at age 15. Andrew Patner of the Chicago Sun-Times described Henry as “one of the finest boy sopranos you’ll ever hear” following his performance of the Shepherd Boy solo in Puccini’s *Tosca* in 2011 with the CSO.

More recently, Henry has been found singing the roles of Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* at the Prague Summer Nights young artist program at the Castleton Festival (2022), as well as The Forester in *The Cunning Little Vixen* (2022), Dr. Bartolo in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (2021), Toby in *110 in the Shade* (2020), and Snug in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (2019), all at the Chautauqua Opera Conservatory. In summer 2021, Henry also covered the role of the Commentator in Derrick Wang’s opera *Scalia/Ginsburg* as well as opera scenes with the Chautauqua Opera Company. At the Manhattan School of Music, Henry has performed in scene programs as the roles of Hamlet in Thomas’ *Hamlet* (2022), Judas in Massenet’s *Marie-Magdalene* (2022), and Frank in *Kiss me Kate* (2021). His 2021-2022 season brought numerous concert engagements including bass soloist in Mozart’s *Requiem*, followed by that of Faure’s *Requiem* just a few months later (both with the Manhattan School of Music Symphony Orchestra), as well as the role of Pilate in a staged production of Bach’s *Passion According to St. John* with the Opera NextDoor at the Co-cathedral of St. Joseph in April 2022. In January 2023, Henry performed assorted art songs, including an original composition titled *warm water flows*, on a recital curated by Anthony Roth Costanzo, Myra Huang, and the Gerda-Lissner Foundation featuring young artists at the Greene Space NYC, aired on WQXR NYC.

In addition to singing, Henry is also a pianist, arranger, composer, and conductor. He has played piano since the age of 6 studying with Hannah Voigt and Jiayin Li, winning multiple awards in the CAMTA Sonata competition and earning a gold medal with his AIM high school graduation recital comprised of Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Ravel’s *Le tombeau de Couperin*. He more recently performed multiple recitals of four-hands piano repertoire, including a performance in June 2021 which aired live on WFMT Chicago as part of the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series. Henry is also a budding composer: in 2016 he won a gold medal at CAMTA’s young composer’s competition for his original composition “Street Sanctus.” More recently, he premiered his original song cycle, “During the daylight warm water flows” as part of his degree recital at the Manhattan School of Music in February 2023 with pianist Kanae Matsumoto.

In the fall of 2022, Henry would have made his Carnegie Hall solo debut on November, 30 2022 in Paul Moravec’s world premiere *A Nation of Others* with the Oratorio Society of New York led by Kent Tritle, but unfortunately tested positive for Covid-19 on the day of. Henry studied at the Manhattan School of Music where he is sang the role of Ottone in *L’incoronazione di Poppea* by Monteverdi with the MSM Undergraduate Opera Theater & Orchestra in May of 2023 just before graduating with his Bachelor’s degree in classical voice. After his aforementioned fellowship at the Mostly Modern Festival, Henry was a young artist in the Opera and Song Programmes of the Verbier Academy’s Atelier Lyrique in Switzerland. There, he performed the role of Keeper of the Madhouse in Stravinsky’s *The Rake’s Progress* with the Verbier Festival Orchestra led by James Gaffigan. This year, Henry looks forward to being a young artist at Opera on the James in Lynchburg, VA as well as being an emerging artist with a full ride to Opera in the Ozarks in Inspiration Point, AR. There, he will sing the roles of Germont in *La Traviata* and Reverend Hale in *The Crucible*, with orchestra.

