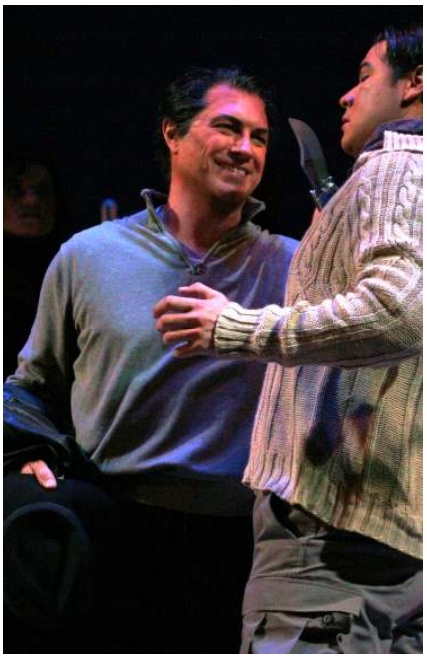
Biography and Review Highlights for Baritone Mark Walters

Germont – *La Traviata* – Den Nye Opera
" Mark Walters, on the other hand, was distinct and effective as Giorgio Germont, both his voice and stage deportment were first class".
- **Bergens Tidende** - Bergen, Norway June 25, 2010



Escamillo – *Carmen* – Florida Grand Opera
"As Escamillo, Mark Walters was every bit the toreador, from his red knee-high stockings to the black tight pants and vest to the slickedback black hair. His song was heroic..."
- **Opera News** - April 24, 2010

Enrico - *Lucia di Lammermoor* – Florida Grand Opera
"Mark Walters's Enrico was a force to be reckoned with, a Viking in kilts with voice to match."
- **Opera News** - January 23, 2010
"As Enrico, the baritone Mark Walters was the finest actor of the night …His strong, well-centered voice brought dread and fury to the first act aria Cruda funesta smania...he brought drama to the opera."
- **The Miami Herald** - January 25, 2010

Conte di Luna – *Il Trovatore* – Piedmont Opera
"…the young Count di Luna, was sung and played with malice and cunning by Mark Walters, whose dark and powerful voice fit the role perfectly."
- **The Classical Voice of North Carolina** - October 1, 2010

Valentin - *Faust* – Opera Memphis
"Mark Walters, as Marguerite's brother Valentin, received the biggest applause of the evening, after the astounding prayer to his sister."
- **Memphis Commercial Appeal** - April 27, 2009

Count – *Le nozze di Figaro* - Piedmont Opera
"Baritone Mark Waters, as Count Almaviva, made an unusually strong adversary for his servants.
- **Classical Voice of North Carolina** - April 5, 2009

Opera News describes **Mark Walters** as "a force to be reckoned with…heroic." The Chicago Sun Times depicts Walters as "vocal fury." The Salt Lake Tribune says "The tall, handsome singer possesses a magnificently resonant voice and unforced dramatic ability." Walters has sung over 50 roles in the baritone repertoire and with this season's performances of ***Rigoletto***, ***Il trovatore*** and ***La traviata***, he is a singer to watch in the demanding Verdi arena.

Future engagements for Walters include the title role of ***Rigoletto*** with Florida Grand Opera. He makes company debuts with Arizona Opera as Valentin in ***Faust*** and with Opera Naples as Escamillo in ***Carmen***. He will be featured on a **Richard Tucker Music Foundation** concert and with Opera Tampa in *A Night of Stars* gala honoring the career of Placido Domingo. He will also be heard in the cast recording and **world premiere** of ***Rappahannock County*** by American composer **Ricky Ian Gordon** and will appear in the US **premiere** of ***Rockland*** by Finnish composer Jukka Linkola.

Some **highlights** of Walters' career include his **European debut** as Germont in ***La traviata*** with Den Nye Opera in Bergen, Norway and his **Asian debut** in the title role of ***Don Giovanni*** in Osaka, Japan. He debuted at Carnegie Hall in Orff's ***Carmina Burana*** and the **Fauré *Requiem*** conducted by John Rutter and he portrayed the Reverend Olin Blitch in a special 50th year anniversary production of ***Susannah***, personally overseen by Carlisle Floyd. He has been seen in leading roles with Florida Grand Opera, Cleveland Opera, Virginia Opera, Sarasota Opera, Toledo Opera, Nashville Opera, Dayton Opera and Opera Memphis.

Concert highlights include **solo recitals** with the Bechstein Vocal Series in New York, the Upclose, Onstage recital series with Sarasota Opera and the NATS Southern Regional Conference. He has performed Beethoven's ***9th Symphony*** with the Tallahassee Symphony and the ***Messiah*** with the Mississippi Symphony and the Handel Oratorio Society.

Walters has been involved with the **premieres** of ***Corps of Discovery*** by Michael Ching with Opera Memphis, ***Good Neighbors*** by Robert Taylor at the Cumberland Playhouse, ***Blake*** by Leslie Adams with the Cleveland Choral Society and ***The Children of the Keweenaw*** by Paul Seitz with the Pine Mountain Music Festival. Walters has also had the pleasure to premiere the song cycles ***Of Passion's Tide*** by Canadian Composer Laureate Jeffrey Ryan, ***4 Poems of Rossetti*** by Marty Robinson and ***Love's Cycle*** by Mark Henkin.

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