

Faculty Recital

2017–2018 Season
14th Concert

Sunday 17 September 2017
Dalton Center Recital Hall
7:30 p.m.

CARL RATNER, Baritone

with

Rhea Olivaccé, Soprano

Meredith Arwady, Contralto

Barry Ross, Violin

Jane Kenas, Piano

John Griffin, Piano

Yu-Lien The, Piano

“Fathers, Friends, Fiends, and Fools”

Gaetano Donizetti

1797–1848

“Ah, Un foco insolito” from Act I of *Don Pasquale*

Giuseppe Verdi

1813–1901

Iago’s Credo from *Otello*

Carl Ratner and Jane Kenas

Giuseppe Verdi

“Ella giammai m’amò” from *Don Carlo*

Carl Ratner, Barry Ross, and Jane Kenas

Charles Gounod

1818–1893

Jewel Song from *Faust*

Rhea Olivaccé and Jane Kenas

Giuseppe Verdi

Duet from Act II of *Falstaff*

Meredith Arwady, Carl Ratner, and John Griffin

intermission

Piotr Tchaikovsky

1840–1893

Duet from Act III of *Eugene Onegin*

Rhea Olivaccé, Carl Ratner, and John Griffin

Jules Massenet

1842–1912

Méditation from Thaïs

Barry Ross and Yu-Lien The

Richard Wagner

1813–1883

**“O, du mein holder Abendstern” (Wolfram’s Aria)
from Act III of *Tannhäuser***

Carl Ratner and John Griffin

Richard Wagner

**Wotan’s Farewell and Magic Fire Music from Act III
of *Die Walküre***

Carl Ratner

CARL RATNER currently serves as Professor of voice and opera for the School of Music at Western Michigan University. He teaches applied voice, French and German diction for singers, Opera Workshop, vocal literature, and frequently directs the annual opera production. He is professionally active as a baritone soloist, stage director and opera consultant.

He was awarded a 2010–11 Fulbright grant to perform in recital, give lectures and master classes, direct an American chamber opera, and research Russian art song at the Saint Petersburg Conservatory in Russia. In 2011 he toured the eastern United States with a recital of songs by Russian and Russian-American composers, beginning with a performance at the Russian Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. In 2017-18, he will return to Saint Petersburg to present a program of music by Tchaikovsky. He then travels to Bulgaria for a concert of Verdi and Wagner arias with full orchestra. In the spring he will perform the baritone solos in Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 13 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and co-direct Verdi’s *Rigoletto* in Florida, as well as giving recitals, concerts, and master classes there.

His operatic engagements have included the leading baritone roles of Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*, Verdi’s *Falstaff*, Puccini’s *Gianni Schicchi*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Turandot*, as well as Robert Ward’s Pulitzer Prize winning operatic version of *The Crucible*. He has also collaborated with the Bach Ensemble of Naples, Florida, for performances of many baroque masterpieces including Handel’s *Messiah*, as well as a mixed program of sacred music that was toured to Germany and the Czech Republic. He has performed in concert and recital in 10 states and five European countries and has sung in 14 languages.

Ratner’s career also includes more than three decades of experience as an opera director. He learned his craft assisting directors at major opera houses including Covent Garden (London), the Metropolitan Opera, Munich Opera, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Santa Fe Opera and the Spoleto Festival in Italy, where he worked with eminent composer Gian Carlo Menotti. From 1994–99, he served as artistic director of Chicago Opera Theater, Chicago’s second largest opera company, and previously held the same position with Chamber Opera Chicago from 1984–93. He has staged professional productions throughout the United States.

He received his Bachelor of Music degree in music history from the Oberlin Conservatory and also participated in an internship in opera, dance and drama production at The Juilliard School. He earned a Master of Arts in vocal pedagogy at Northeastern Illinois University and his Doctor of Music degree in vocal performance from the School of Music at Northwestern University.

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