

Texarkana, Texas native Aaron Ball is an award winning operatic baritone, actor, stage director, audiobook narrator, business leader, educator, author, motivational speaker, innovator, organizational and individual coach, and leading advocate and consultant for the performing arts.

Hailed as "a master of declamation and interpretation... a wonderful voice with enumerable vocal shadings... and flexibility of expression," (Sharon Mabry, *Journal of Singing*; author, *Exploring Twentieth Century Vocal Music*), Aaron's career highlights include the leading role of Don Perizonio as guest artist for CSUN Opera's production of the North American premiere of Cimarosa's 1787 opera farsa *L'impresario in angustie*, the Southern California premiere of James Robinson's production of John Adams' controversial masterpiece *The Death of Klinghoffer* and the U.S. premiere of Gabriela Ortiz's *Camelia la Tajana* – both for Long Beach Opera, the role of Morel in the West Coast premiere of Massenet's *Therese*, the role of Joseph Berthold in the West Coast premiere of Offenbach's "Le 66" for Mission Opera, as well as the world premiere of John Haukoos' one-act opera *The Dream Maker*, in which Aaron created the role of Kirk Euston.

Aaron's signature roles include, among others, Don Giovanni, Yeletsky, Scarpia, Count Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Sharpless, Papageno, Escamillo, Falke, Peter/Vater (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Melchior (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*), and Mr. Gobineau (*The Medium*).

Aaron sings regularly on the West Coast, especially in Los Angeles where, at Independent Opera Company in 2019, he made a memorable role debut as Prince Leopold Maria in Kálmán's rarely-produced 1915 operetta *The Gipsy Princess* – with the composer's daughter attending the opening night performance.

An advocate for opera education and outreach, Aaron also debuted in 2019 the leading role of Dubuque LaCross in Nancy Steele Brokow's *Baobab*, a short opera co-produced by the University of California, Merced and Prairie Fire Children's Opera that reached thousands of school-aged children in the San Joaquin Valley and Bay Area over the course of a week.

In concert, Aaron has appeared as soloist for much of the standard oratorio and concert cannons as well as for the premieres of new works by composers Glenn Longacre (*Exalted*) and Nancy Reeves (*Requiem*); he is also an accomplished recitalist with a passion for art song performance, particularly for song cycles.

Earlier this year, Aaron was engaged as both director and performer for IOC's very popular *IOC Stars in Concert* series - a series of concerts co-produced by Aaron's award-winning performing arts production and consulting firm, Command virFormance, premiering as livestreams and available for limited periods on-demand for a global audience. As famed Yiddish poet and Holocaust survivor Abraham Sutzkever, Aaron worked closely with composer Lori Laitman in preparing and performing her powerful song cycle for baritone, piano and cello *The Seed of Dream* to great international acclaim as well as a program of Rachmaninoff songs as part of this successful series.

As a musician-actor, Aaron excels in spoken word and narration for contemporary classical works having performed all three roles in Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* for the Los Angeles

Valley Chamber Ensemble, Aaron Alon's *Soul Flow* for TEMPO, and most recently, Frederic Rzewski's minimalist masterpieces *Coming Together* (1971) and *Attica* (1972) with the Valley Chamber Ensembles. As a core member of the Valley Chamber Ensembles, Aaron champions and regularly performs new and underproduced twentieth and twenty-first century works.

On screen, Ball can be seen most recently as "Mr. Projector," a character of his own creation, in the Paul Bunnell feature film *The Ghastly Love of Johnny X* (2012). Additionally, Ball is known for his childhood work in the independent films of Charles B. Pierce, films for which his father John worked as production designer and art director. Ball's screen debut was in Pierce's *The Legend of Boggy Creek* (1972), which underwent a 4K restoration from the Eastman Museum in 2019 and enjoyed a limited nationwide theatrical re-release for much of that year leading to its first ever appearance on commercial blu-ray.

An alumnus of University of Miami Frost School of Music's prestigious Lieder program, Aaron performed recitals and concerts throughout Salzburg, Austria in conjunction with the 2014 Salzburg Festival where he worked with acclaimed American singers baritone Thomas Hampson and soprano Hellen Donath (a fellow Texan). Aaron is also an alumnus of the artist programs LA Vocal Lab and Angels Vocal Art where, as part of the later program, he worked with international star tenor Vittorio Grigolo in 2015 and went on to make his Carnegie Hall debut as soloist with the AVA ensemble and orchestra in September of 2019.

With a professional history steeped in strategic planning, business and talent development, and video and audio production, Aaron is quickly being recognized as a top leader in the new discipline of remote production for the performing arts and the groundbreaking new genres being developed out of this discipline. In addition to his excellent work in bringing remote and self-production skills and performance technique to singers across the country, Aaron is equally deeply committed to helping performing arts organizations craft new models for our new age that will help ensure the sustainability and longevity of the performing musical arts. To that end, Aaron serves as principal and creative director for his company Command virFormance offering performing arts organizations beginning-to-end solutions for digital delivery of traditionally live production models (a critical consideration for all performing arts organizations today). CvF's world-class associates work with organizations to help build new ("virtual") production models that make best use of the technologies and skills needed to successfully integrate long-term and effective strategies for digital delivery with existing strategies for live performance production.

Aaron created and directed through CvF the trailer for client Mission Opera's electrifying pandemic-era, filmed version of Menotti's *The Medium*, in which Aaron also performed the role of Mr. Gobineau alongside Metropolitan Opera veteran Janet Hopkins. In June of 2021, the trailer for this production won Aaron, his company, and his client the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Telly award for Excellence in Non-Broadcast, Non-Profit Video Promotion.

As a respected organizational leader, in addition to his role with CvF, Aaron also serves as president & CEO of Randall Designs, Inc., the Emmy Award-winning dancesport industry design house (ABC's *Dancing With the Stars*) that created the costumes for DWTS' first twelve seasons. Aaron also serves as a member of Independent Opera Company's (IOC) board of directors.

Aaron holds both his BM and MM in vocal performance from California State University, Northridge where he was the winner of the 2017 CSUN Concerto/Aria competition. He is a lifetime member of Pi Kappa Lambda, the only musical honor society recognized by the Association of College Honor Societies, as well as a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

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