

Stephen Anthony Ray, *baritone*

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(501) 681.2015

Career Objective:

to seek development and performance opportunities where I will be able to cultivate and exhibit my talent as a classical vocalist, specializing in opera but equally qualified to perform art song, oratorio, musical theatre, and Gospel music.

Education:

Bachelor of Arts - Music; Minor: Christian Studies (expected May 2008)
Ouachita Baptist University
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Vocal Study:

Dr. Jon Secrest (2003 - 2007)
Professor of Music, Chair of the Department of Applied Music & Coordinator of Vocal Studies
Jones School of Fine Arts - Ouachita Baptist University - Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Professor Wolfgang Fuchsberger (Spring 2005)
Professor of Music
Mozarteum - Salzburg, Austria

Fred Carama (Summer 2007)
Voice Instructor
Music Academy of the West - Santa Barbara, California

Opera Roles:

Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* (in English), W. A. Mozart
OBU Opera Theatre - November 2003
Director: Dr. Jon Secrest; Conductor: Dr. Jon Secrest

Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* (in English), W. A. Mozart
OBU Opera Theatre - November 2006
Director: Dr. Jon Secrest; Conductor: Dr. Craig Hamilton

Don Giovanni in *Don Giovanni* (scenes; in Italian), W. A. Mozart
The Music Academy of the West - July 2007
Director: Lotfi Mansouri; Conductor: Warren Jones

Marcello (cover) in *La Bohème* (in Italian), Giacomo Puccini
The Music Academy of the West - August 2007
Director: Casey Stangl; Conductor: Christopher Larkin

Concert Solo Performances:

Elijah in excerpts from *Elijah*, Felix Mendelssohn
OBU Concert Choir - Fall Concert, 2006
Conductor: Dr. Gary Gerber; Pianist: Becky Moore

Baritone Soloist in *Durufle Requiem*, Maurice Durufle
OBU Concert Choir - Spring Concert, 2007
Conductor: Dr. Charles Fuller; Organist: Russell Hodges

Artistic Development Programs:

2007 Music Academy of the West Summer School & Festival

Marilyn Horne, Voice Program Director

Participation in the Academy included weekly voice lessons with Marilyn Horne or Fred Carama, multiple weekly coachings with John Churchwell and Linda Jones, and multiple weekly diction coachings with Mary Collier (French), Heinz Blankenburg (German), or Valentina Petringa (Italian). The Academy also included participation in a full scale opera production (*La Bohème*), an opera scenes program, a cabaret, and a wealth of other masterclass and performance opportunities.

Masterclass Performance:

Sherrill Milnes
University of Central Arkansas - September 2004

Heidi Grant Murphy
University of Central Arkansas - February 2007

Warren Jones
The Music Academy of the West - July 2007

Marilyn Horne
The Music Academy of the West - August 2007

Awards & Recognition:

Grand-finalist
2008 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions

National Semi-Finalist
2006 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions

Encouragement Award
2007 Marilyn Horne Foundation Competition
The Music Academy of the West

Governor's Award
2006 National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS)
Southern Region Competition & Conference

First Place
2007 Mary Shambarger Competition for Musical Theatre
Ouachita Baptist University

Nine Time First Place Winner
2003 - 2006 National Association of Teachers in Singing (NATS)
State & Regional Competitions & Conference

Miscellaneous:

Associate Minister (2002 - present)
Harris Temple Baptist Church - Little Rock, Arkansas

Interim Youth Pastor (2007 - present)
Park Hill Baptist Church - Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Big Brother (2005 - present)
Big Brother / Big Sister Mentoring Program
Ouachita Baptist University - Arkadelphia, Arkansas

References:

Dr. Jon Secrest
Chair of the Department of Applied Music & Coordinator of Vocal Studies
Jones School of Fine Arts, Ouachita Baptist University
(870) 245.5134 office; secrestj@obu.edu email

Ms. Laurie Huneycutt
Administrative Assistant to the Dean
Jones School of Fine Arts, Ouachita Baptist University
(870) 245.5129 office; huneycuttl@obu.edu email

Rev. Erby Burgess
Pastor
Park Hill Baptist Church
(870) 246.4802 office; eburgess@suddenlinkmail.com email

Robert Yelder
Umpire
NCAA - Southwestern Athletic Conference
(501) 835.7601 home

Statement from the Artist:

In addition to singing classically, I also love to mentor and disciple teenagers, and to play Blues and Gospel on piano. Furthermore, I've been abundantly blessed with a wonderful family and wonderful friends who help me to be a better man. Above all, my faith in God is the foundation of who I am. It is indeed that faith which allows me to experience a uniquely intimate relationship with all of what God has created – especially music.