

Is He or Isn't He!

Mr. Mark Crayton

ABSTRACT:

Every male singer (usually) has a falsetto. And many singers and teachers feel that being a Countertenor is a choice. I propose that due to the sound of the voice, a true countertenor is a rarity. That does not mean that many baritones/tenors with incredible falsettos can't have amazing careers (and do). I hope that this conversation is a beginning for teachers, who are charged with "diagnosing" countertenors on a regular basis, can use to help the determine the type of countertenor and the possibility of a long healthy career. I further propose that we begin the discussion, once we have determined if a singer is a countertenor (no matter the type), what type he is and the possibilities of mainstreaming vocal repertoire to make each countertenor a well-rounded singer.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY:

Countertenor, Conductor and Director, Mark Crayton is hailed by critics and audiences for the pure beauty of his voice, his expressive and insightful interpretations, his natural musicality, and his crowd-pleasing productions! Winner of the Classical Singer International Vocal Competition, Mr. Crayton performs on concert stages and in opera houses throughout the United States and Europe. Mr. Crayton loves creating new roles and has created the "First Minstrel" in Onnes' opera/theatre piece Pantagruel et Gargantua, the Cardinal Inquisitor and Autumn Oracle in Philip Glass' opera Galileo Galilei in Chicago, New York City and London, and Louis Perch in composer John Kander's and lyricist Fred Ebb's in their new musical called The Visit starring Chita Rivera. Past season's highlights have included performances at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Seattle Opera, San Diego Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and the Kennedy Center. Equally at home on the recital and concert stage, Mr. Crayton has performed on Chicago's Jewel Box and Dame Myra Hess series several times as well as recitals with Ars Musica Chicago, at Washington, D.C.'s Phillip's Collection, at Weill Hall in New York City, as well as Amstelrande in Amsterdam and Grovesnor Chapel in London. He has appeared with the Houston Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Sarasota Symphony, Fargo Symphony, Sheboygan Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, Chicago's Music of the Baroque, Chicago Baroque Ensemble, Ensemble Voltaire, La Petite Bande, the Netherlands Kammerkoor, El Ayre Español, as well as many others. Mark Crayton has developed quite a reputation for his interpretation of Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, which he has performed 176 times. For more information concerning Mr. Crayton's career and current season, please visit www.markcrayton.com.