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9-17-2017

## Carl Ratner, Baritone, 9/17

College of Fine Arts

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# 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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