

BILL McMURRAY • Baritone

Representation: **Leota Arts Management**

Leota Bauman

404 Sturdy Rd., Suite 3B • Valparaiso, IN 46383 • 630-235-8676

BIOGRAPHY

With more than forty operatic roles to his credit, baritone Bill McMurray has been described as “a baritone with warm, rich tones and superb stage presence” by the Durham Herald Sun. Such roles include “Figaro” in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, “Count Almaviva” in *Le nozze di Figaro* and “Escamillo” in *Carmen*. Walter Marini of the New Buffalo Times is quoted as saying his portrayal of “Marcello” in Puccini's *La Boheme* is “a powerful actor who brings great elegance to the role. His singing is as fine as anything being heard in major opera houses today.” Recent engagements include his first major Russian role as “Ibn Hakia” in Tchaikovsky's opera *Iolanta* with Chicago Opera Theater. He debuted with the Illinois Philharmonic as the bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, then returned to Chicago Opera Theater this past winter for the Midwest premiere of Stefan Weisman's opera *The Scarlet Ibis*. He concluded his 2018-19 solo season with the symphony orchestra at the University of Chicago as the baritone soloist in Michael Tippett's oratorio *A Child of Our Time*, conducted by Barbara Schubert.

Highlights of his 2019-20 season has Bill singing his first baritone solo in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Northwest Indiana Symphony, as well as the role of “Riff” in a concert version of *West Side Story* with the same orchestra later this season. He will make his debut with Opera San Antonio in the role of “Marullo” in the opera *Rigoletto* in the Spring of 2020.

Previous engagements include his first “Germont” in Verdi's *La Traviata* with Harbor County Opera in Three Oaks, Michigan. Additionally, in 2018 he sang the role of “Mr Greatorex” with Chicago Opera Theater in the world premiere opera *Elizabeth Cree*, then returned to Summer Garden Opera in Virginia to reprise his signature role of “Figaro” in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. Bill sang the lead role of “Prospero” in Lee Hoiby's *The Tempest* with Longleaf Opera in NC, while the composer himself was in attendance and received outstanding reviews for his performance. He has sung with noted companies like Florida Grand Opera, Opera North, Knoxville Opera, The Opera Company of NC, Mobile Opera, Opera Carolina, Central City Opera and Opera on the James. Mr. McMurray has also performed several times with the Lyric Opera of Chicago's “Opera in the Neighborhoods” and “Meet the Artist” outreach programs. In 2013 Bill sang the lead role in the Chicago premiere of *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* at the Jay Pritzker Pavilion with the New Millennium Orchestra under the baton of Francesco Milioto.

Equally successful on the concert stage, Bill has sung solos in such oratorios as Handel's *Messiah*, which he recorded on CD, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, as well as works such as Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs*, and the *Faure Requiem*. Concert appearances include the New Philharmonic Orchestra in Glen Ellyn, the Elmhurst Orchestra and Choral Society, Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Skokie Valley Symphony, Chicago Arts Orchestra, New Millennium Orchestra and the Waukegan Symphony. He performed a set of Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs* with The Chicago Civic Orchestra and was the baritone soloist in a concert version of *Porgy and Bess* with Northwest Indiana Symphony. Mr. McMurray was also a featured soloist in Florence and Rome, Italy with the combined choirs of St John Cantius Church and St Joseph College. In the summer of 2017, at the Ravinia Festival, he was the bass soloist in the final movement of Haydn's *The Creation*, conducted by former Metropolitan Opera Music Director, James Levine. He is a previous first place winner of the National Association Teachers of Singing competition and was one of eight singers selected to the Winners Circle of The Classical Music Vocal Competition, which was held in Chicago.

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RESUME**OPERA ROLES PERFORMED**

Marullo	Rigoletto	Opera San Antonio	2020
Father	The Scarlet Ibis	Chicago Opera Theater	2019
Ibn Hakia	Iolanta	Chicago Opera Theater	2018
Figaro	Il barriere di Siviglia	Summer Garden Opera	2018
Mr Greatorex	Elizabeth Cree	Chicago Opera Theater	2018
Germont	La Traviata	Harbor Country Opera	2016
Dulcamara	L'elisir d'amore	Summer Garden Opera	2015
Dr Falke	Die Fledermaus	Summer Garden Opera	2014
Marcello	La Boheme	Harbor Country Opera	2013
Jake	Porgy and Bess	Skylight Music Theater	2013
Emperor Overall	Der Kaiser von Atlantis	Chicago Cultural Center	2013
Grand Duke	The Circus Princess	Chicago Folks Operetta	2012
Mustafa	L'Italiana in Algeri	Summer Garden Opera	2011
Sacristan	Tosca	Opera on the James	2010
Dulcamara	L'elisir d'amore	Lyric Opera Center	2009
Splendiano	Djamileh (Bizet)	Chicago Cultural Center	2008
Dulcamara	L'elisir d'amore	Union Avenue Opera	2008
Dulcamara	L'elisir d'amore	Muddy River Opera	2008
Alfio	Cavalleria Rusticana	Skokie Valley Symphony	2008
Dulcamara	L'elisir d'amore	Elgin Opera	2008
Count Almaviva	Le nozze di Figaro	Opera in the Heights	2007
Signor Bruschino	Signor Bruschino	Chicago Cultural Center	2007
Yamadori	Madama Butterfly	Elgin Opera	2007
Dulcamara	The Elixir of Love	Lyric Opera Center	2005
Leander	The Love for Three Oranges	Chicago Cultural Center	2005
Angelotti	Tosca	Opera Company NC	2005
Shanaurd	La Boheme	Muddy River Opera	2005
Aeneas	Dido and Aeneas	Chicago Cultural Center	2004
Prospero	The Tempest (Hoiby)	Longleaf Opera	2004
The Armchair/Tree	L'enfant et les sortilege	Chicago Cultural Center	2004
Figaro	Il Barbiere di Siviglia	Gold Coast Opera	2004
Don Magnifico	*La Cenerentola	Lyric Opera Center	2003
The Captain/Ragot	Candide	Chicago Cultural Center	2003
El Dancaire	Carmen	Opera Carolina	2003
5 th Jew	Salome	Florida Grand Opera	2003
Notary	Don Pasquale	Florida Grand Opera	2002
Escamillo	Le Tragedie de Carmen	Florida Grand Opera	2002
Lovitsky	Boris Godunov	Florida Grand Opera	2002
Cal	Regina	Florida Grand Opera	2002

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Stage Directors

Elisabeth Margolius, Paul Curran, Catrin Davies, David Schweizer, Carl Ratner, Bill Thiesen, Bill Walters, Mark Meier, Bob Galbraith, Rick Harrell, Greg Fortner, Sandra Bernhardt, Lotfi Mansouri, Robin Guarino, Ron Luchsinger, Renaud Doucet, Bliss Hebert, Bernard Uzan, Darko Tresnjak, Ranny Umberger, David Bamberger, Everette McCorvey, Michael Erhman, David Gately, Talmadge Fauntleroy, Chris Mattaliano, Carroll Freeman

Conductors

David Hanlon, Lidiya Yankovskaya, Geoff McDonald, Julian Kuerti, Duain Wolfe, Philip Bauman, Chris Ramaekers, Kirk Muspratt, Richard Carsey, Anthony Barrese, Scott Schoonover, Bill Weibel, Tom Cavendish, Francesco Milioto, James Meena, Will Crutchfield, Richard Buckley, Louis Burkot, David Agler, Ivan Torzs, Kal Kellogg, Stewart Robertson, Stephen Mercurio, Mark Flint, John Moriarty, John Baril, Hal France, Robert Lyall, Kurt Trevor, Jeff Dimoto, Ben Keaton

CONCERT & ORATORIO PERFORMANCES

Soloist	Orchestra	Conductor	Year
West Side Story – Riff	Northwest Indiana Symphony	Kirk Muspratt	2020
Messiah	Michigan City Messiah	Philip Bauman	2019
Beethoven 9	Northwest Indiana Symphony	Kirk Muspratt	2019
Show Boat & Show Tunes	New Philharmonic	Kirk Muspratt	2018
Messiah	Illinois Philharmonic	Stillan Kirov	2018
The Creation (final mvt)	Chicago Symphony Orchestra	James Levine	2017
Faure Requiem	Skokie Valley Symphony	Chris Ramaekers	2017
Messiah	Elmhurst Choral Society	Scott Uddenberg	2016
Porgy and Bess in Concert	Northwest Indiana Symphony	Kirk Muspratt	2015
Old American Songs	Chicago Civic Orchestra	Julian Kuerti	2015
Messiah	Waukegan Symphony	Stephen Blackwelder	2014
Welcome Yule	Chicago Symphony Orchestra	Duain Wolfe	2013
Figaro and Company	New Millennium Orchestra	Francesco Milioto	2012
Songs of a Wayfarer	Skokie Valley Symphony	Francesco Milioto	2008

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REVIEWS

“Company regular Bill McMurray was well suited to the role of Father. The burly singer was a strong yet sensitive paternal figure, his baritone warm yet pliant in his solo moments.”

Lawrence A. Johnson, *Chicago Classical Review*

The Scarlet Ibis - 2019

“We have been continuously delighted and impressed with the talent of baritone Bill McMurray. His sturdy baritone is capable of a range of color that bordered on fearsome as Ibn-Hakia in *Iolanta* earlier this season but was warm and paternal in this role. He portrayed the role of Father with pathos, dignity, and an uncanny honesty. Each time Mr. McMurray went to his shop, it brought tears to our eyes, either from sadness or gladness. His “Coffin” aria was heart wrenching in the direct simplicity of a father’s pain. In his ‘Red Wagon’ aria, McMurray perfectly captures a simple working man’s determination to make his son’s life better than his own.”

William and Margaret Swain, *Buzznews.net*

The Scarlet Ibis - 2019

“It is on this ramp that we see the studied slow motion plodding walk of the father (Bill McMurray) to build a coffin for his newborn deformed son, that speaks to the moment’s sorrow as powerfully as his stop-you-in-your-tracks voice. It is here also that we see the indignity of death for *The Scarlet Ibis* as she is prodded with stick to her grave.”

Amy Munice, *Picture This Post*

The Scarlet Ibis - 2019

“Company regular Bill McMurray brought an authoritative bass-baritone and dignified presence to Ibn-Hakia, the holistic physician who communicates the secret of restoring *Iolanta*’s vision.”

Lawrence A. Johnson, *Chicago Classical Review*

Iolanta - 2019

“Bill McMurray, as Dr. Ibn Hakla, delivered a slightly more dramatic sound which suited the mystically transcendental requirements of that role. His aria was vocally spectacular . . .”

William and Margaret Swain, *Buzznews.net*

Iolanta - 2019

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“As Marcello...Bill McMurray...gave the audience some terrific singing. Chicago baritone Bill McMurray gives a wonderfully individual interpretation of the painter Marcello. Having sat through scores of performances of blustery, barking Marcellos, this reviewer found it refreshing to hear this role actually sung and not shouted. McMurray is a powerful actor and brings great elegance to the role. His singing is as fine as anything being heard in major opera houses today. One hopes to hear more of him in this area.”

Walter Martini, *New Buffalo Times*
La Boheme - 2013

“Baritone Bill McMurray gave a solid account of this psycho-musical study of love and loss, intelligently limning the labile emotional shifts of ‘Ich hab’ ein glühend’ Messer’ and providing some deftly floated pianissimos.”

Mark Thomas Ketterson, **Concertonet.com**
Songs of a Wayfarer - 2008

“Bill McMurray imbues the lusty Count with a surprising amount of sex appeal...”

D.L. Groover, **Houston Press**
Marriage of Figaro - 2007

“Baritone Bill McMurray as Angelotti, the escaped consul of the defunct Roman Republic acted and sang well in his small, but crucial role.”

Elizabeth Kahn, *Classical Voice of North Carolina*
Tosca - 2005

“Baritone Bill McMurray made an imposing Prospero, with a clean, resonant voice and excellent acting.”

Joseph Kahn, *Classical Voice of North Carolina*
The Tempest (Hoiby) - 2004

“Bill McMurray (Jake)... brought musical and theatrical strength and focus to [his] role.”

Elaine Schmidt, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*
Porgy and Bess - 2013