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CURT OLDS BARITONE/DIRECTOR

Hailed by *Opera News* as “A wonderful singing actor, as adept in pointing dialogue as in phrasing song,” Curt is best known for his portrayal as both the Pirate King and Major General Stanley in ***The Pirates of Penzance***, for which he has a combined total of 28 productions.

Curt joined the International Tour of ***The Phantom of the Opera*** as Andre in January of 2019, which continued performances through the end of 2020 in Manila, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Tel Aviv, and South Korea. He continues with this same tour currently, recently visiting Bangkok, Mumbai, and major cities in China.

During the hiatus of *Phantom*, Curt was named General Director for Fargo-Moorhead Opera for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 seasons, as well as being named the Director of Artistic Planning for Utah Festival Opera. He also returned to the Bigfork Summer Playhouse to direct ***9 to 5*** and appeared in the UFOMT productions of ***The Fantasticks*** and ***33 Variations***.

Recently, Olds reprised his classic performances of ***The Pirates of Penzance*** as Major General Stanley with Nashville Opera and the Pirate King with Anchorage Opera, in addition to performing as the Baker in ***Into the Woods*** with Tulsa Opera. The summer of 2023 marked the first season of Curt’s position as Director of Artistic Planning at Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre. He also directed the UIA Presents production of ***Sweeney Todd*** at Pacific Symphony.

As a director, Olds also worked with UIA Presents on their production of ***My Fair Lady: In Concert*** as the Creator of Musical Staging and Adapting Director in performances with the Milwaukee Symphony, North Carolina Symphony, and Utah Symphony. He also directed ***Il barbiere di Siviglia*** for Utah Festival and a special revue he created for Central City Opera entitled ***Encore: A Musical Revue***.

Living up to his singing actor pedigree, Mr. Olds has experience on Broadway, Off-Broadway, and in regional and international houses. He played Monsieur Baurel in the workshop of ***An American in Paris*** directed by Tony Award-winner Christopher Wheeldon; Gus in the Original German Company of ***Cats***; Walt in ***Threepenny Opera*** starring Bea Arthur at NYC’s Lortel Theatre; Cecil in ***A Room With a View*** at NYC’s York Theatre; Mr. Lindquist in ***A Little Night Music*** at Boston’s North Shore Theatre; Bob Wallace in Irving Berlin’s ***White Christmas*** at Theatre on the Square; and he spent two years in the Broadway company of ***Riverdance***. Other favorite theatre engagements include Pete Bartel in ***Pete ‘N’ Keely***, Frank Butler in ***Annie Get Your Gun***, Fred Graham in ***Kiss Me, Kate***, Franklin Hart, Jr. in ***9 to 5, The Musical***, and the Baker in ***Into the Woods***.

A consummate “cross-over” artist, Olds has performed some theatre repertoire favorites on opera stages throughout the country including the Emcee in ***Cabaret*** at The Atlanta Opera, Anthony Hope in ***Sweeney Todd*** at Opera Omaha, Henry Higgins in ***My Fair Lady*** at Ash Lawn Opera, Will Parker in ***Oklahoma!*** and





Frank Schultz in **Show Boat** at Central City Opera, Herman in **The Most Happy Fella** with Tulsa Opera, Max in **The Sound of Music** with Anchorage Opera, Luther Billis in **South Pacific** with Hawaii Opera Theatre, Harold Hill in **The Music Man** with Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre, Nathan Detroit in **Guys and Dolls** with New Haven Symphony, Petruchio/Fred in **Kiss Me, Kate** at MCT, Inc., Roy Johnson in **The Light in the Piazza** with Central City Opera, and Bob Wallace in Irving Berlin's **White Christmas** at Little Theatre on the Square.

Olds is also in demand and has garnered international acclaim for his creative portrayals of an array of characters in the operetta repertoire. Career highlights include such performances as: Captain Corcoran in **H.M.S. Pinafore** with Eugene Opera, Arizona Opera, and Central City Opera; Ko-Ko in **The Mikado** with Hawaii Opera Theatre, Central City Opera, Opera New Jersey, Arizona Opera, and Anchorage Opera; The Pirate King in **The Pirates of Penzance** with Edmonton Opera, Lake George Opera, Hawaii Opera Theatre, and Arizona Opera; Pangloss/Voltaire in **Candide** with the New England Conservatory; Falke in **Die Fledermaus** at Lake George Opera; Dick McGann in **Street Scene** at Central City Opera; Pangloss/Voltaire/Martin/Cacambo/Candide in **Candide** with Arizona Opera, Anchorage Opera, and in concert with the South Dakota Symphony; Major General Stanley in **The Pirates of Penzance** with The Atlanta Opera, Intermountain Opera, Nashville Opera, and Utah Festival Opera & Musical Theatre, among others; Papageno in **Die Zauberflöte** with Hawaii Opera Theatre; and Njegus in **The Merry Widow** for Utah Opera.

On the concert stage, Olds performed Orff's **Carmina Burana** with Boston Symphony Pro Musica, Händel's **Chandos Anthem No. 5** at the Omaha Symphony, in an all Gilbert and Sullivan concert with Cincinnati Opera, in a gala with Wolf Trap Opera, in a Purcell recital with Anchorage Opera, in *Madison Theater Christmas Celebration: A Home for the Holidays* at Madison Theater, and in New York City Opera's *Fach'd Up* concert. Additionally, Olds is seen regularly on Pops stages throughout the U.S. including Ridgefield Symphony, Brazos Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony, Colorado Symphony, New Haven Symphony, Omaha Symphony, and New Jersey Symphony. He made his New York recital début at the Metropolitan Museum of Art with Gerald Steichen at the piano.

Gaining momentum as a recording and voice-over artist, Olds recorded commercials and promotional materials with clients including Planet Hollywood Casinos, Books Beyond Pages, Ethan Allen Furniture, and the syndicated PBS feature **Northwest Explorer**. Curt is also featured on the soundtrack of the Disney animated film **A Christmas Carol** starring Kate Winslet and Nicholas Cage.

As a director, Mr. Olds has directed productions of **My Fair Lady**, **The Mikado**, **Spamalot!**, **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**, **Cats**, **Carmen**, **Dirty Rotten Scoundrels**, **The Pirates of Penzance**, and more at regional theatres and in educational institutions. He has also given a variety of masterclasses at young artist programs and universities, demonstrating an investment in emerging talents in the performing arts.

Curt holds a Master of Music degree in Vocal Performance from The New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and was a regional finalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. He was also a winner in Portland Opera's Lieber Awards and was named McGlone Artist of the Year at Central City Opera.