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## WON WHI CHOI

### TENOR

Won Whi Choi has been busy captivating and thrilling audiences worldwide with his lustrous and ringing voice, elegant musicianship, and sensitive artistry. In 2020, Mr. Choi made his Metropolitan Opera début as Alfredo in ***La Traviata*** to rave reviews. Last season, Mr. Choi returned to The Atlanta Opera to sing Macduff in ***Macbeth***, joined Hawaii Opera Theatre to sing Don José in ***Carmen***, and sang Verdi's ***Requiem*** with Pacific Symphony and The Dessoff Choirs at Trinity Church. This season, Mr. Choi will return to Minnesota Opera for an exciting role début as Canio in ***Pagliacci***.

Mr. Choi recently sang the Duke in ***Rigoletto*** in his début with The Atlanta Opera, returned to Minnesota Opera as Rodolfo in ***La bohème***, and made his Australian début as Ruggero in ***La rondine*** with Victorian Opera. He also returned to The Metropolitan Opera for both ***Rigoletto*** and ***Fedora***, joined Seoul Metropolitan Opera to sing Roméo in ***Roméo and Juliette***, sang Alfredo in ***La Traviata*** with Virginia Opera, and returned to New York City Opera as Giorgio in ***The Garden of the Finzi-Continis***. Choi spent three seasons at Theatre Erfurt in Germany, during which he sang a variety of leading roles, including, the Duke in ***Rigoletto***, Don José in ***Carmen***, Roméo in ***Roméo et Juliette***, Ferrando in ***Così fan tutte***, Tamino in ***Die Zauberflöte***, Hyllus in ***Hercules***, Andres in ***Wozzeck***, Il Cantatore in ***Giulietta e Romeo***, and Prince Sou Chong in Lehar's ***Das Land des Lächelns*** which he also performed for the Morbisch Festival. In his first New York City performance, Choi was praised by *The New York Observer* for his portrayal of Rodolfo in ***La bohème*** and his "big, virile sound that rocketed fearlessly up to a high C, so secure he dared to run across the stage while holding the note."



Recent engagements also included a role début as Arcadio in ***Florencia en el Amazonas*** with New York City Opera; the role of Don José in ***Carmen*** for Minnesota Opera, Croatia National Theater, and in more than ten performances at the Domstufen Festival in Germany; Da-Ud in ***Die ägyptische Helena*** with Odyssey Opera; the title role in ***Les contes d'Hoffman*** with Opera Tampa and Opera Orlando; Rodolfo in ***La bohème*** with Croatian National Theatre in Osijek and The Metropolitan Opera (cover); Prince Sou-Chong in Franz Lehar's ***Das Land des Lächelns*** in a début with Hong Kong Opera and with Theater Erfurt; Ruggero in ***La rondine*** at Skylark Opera; Edgardo in ***Lucia di Lammermoor*** with Opera in Williamsburg; Chevalier in ***Dialogues des Carmélites*** with Mannes Opera Theatre; Alfredo in ***La Traviata*** for Williamsburg Opera, Nashville Opera, Mannes Opera Theatre, and Opera på Skäret in Sweden; the title role in ***Les contes d'Hoffmann*** with the Martina Arroyo Foundation; and the Duke in ***Rigoletto*** at New York City Opera and Opera Idaho, where critics raved: "Choi made for a strapping and sexy Duke of Mantua, which makes it more believable that women would so willingly fall for his charms, and sacrifice themselves for his life. His soaring tenor easily and fearlessly reached the high Bs in 'La donna è mobile,' one of the most known arias in the operatic canon."

Mr. Choi is emerging as a concert artist to watch after his performance of Händel's ***Messiah*** with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. The *Winnipeg Free Press* raved, "Won Whi Choi asserted his booming



presence immediately with his opening recitative 'Comfort ye my people' followed by aria 'Ev'ry valley shall be exalted.' Demonstrating a remarkable vocal strength...the singer responded ably to the composer's many virtuosic runs while also displaying an equally impressive dynamic range." Recently, he also sang in an opera gala at Shanghai Symphony Orchestra Hall in Shanghai, China to great critical acclaim.

Mr. Choi's interpretation of Rodolfo in *La bohème* garners acclaim on every stage he graces. Of his performance in Croatia, Glas Slavinije wrote: "Won Whi Choi as Rodolfo sang his famous aria, with joyful accents, excited enthusiasm and nobility, with pure lilting melodies and striking vocal line, effortlessly climbing to a high C. Choi's performance was absolutely perfect, showcasing his excellent legato phrasing. The range of voice was remarkable! His performance consisted of high notes that were strongly developed, dynamic contrasts, great diction, vocal coloring, combined with world class phrasing and dynamic shading."

Mr. Choi was one of eight finalists at the Montreal International Musical Competition in 2012. He holds a Professional Studies Diploma and a Master of Music Degree from Mannes College of Music and a Bachelor of Music degree from the Korean National University of the Arts.

Current as of September 1, 2025