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MICHAEL KELLY BARITONE/LIBRETTIST

Baritone and librettist Michael Kelly has been praised as “expressive and dynamic” and “vocally splendid,” having performed with the Santa Fe Opera, Carnegie Hall, New York City Opera, the New World Symphony, Seattle Symphony, and the Cincinnati May Festival.

Captivating audiences with his “exquisitely self-effacing” artistry, Mr. Kelly is a versatile and innovative vocalist, having performed with many of America’s leading orchestras and opera companies, including: The Cleveland Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, The Mostly Mozart Festival, Opernhaus Zurich, Chicago Opera Theater, Gotham Chamber Opera, Mark Morris Dance Group, Boston Early Music Festival, and Ars Lyrica. His repertoire ranges from baroque to modern, leading him to collaborate with some of today’s most celebrated composers, including Matthew Aucoin, David Del Tredici, Mohammed Fairouz, John Glover, Ricky Ian Gordon, Martin Hennessy, Laura Kaminsky, Libby Larsen, David T. Little, Lowell Liebermann, Ben Moore, John Musto, David Sisco, and David Wolfson.



Last season, Mr. Kelly made an exciting role and house début as Harvey Milk in Opera Parallèle and Opera Theatre of St. Louis’ world premiere production of **Harvey Milk Reimagined**. In addition, he appeared as a featured soloist in **Giants in the Earth** with South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, **Dona Nobis Pacem** with MidAmerica Productions, and a concert of holiday carols with Opera Edwardsville. This season, Mr. Kelly appears as a soloist in Mozart’s **Requiem** with the Savannah Philharmonic.

In recent seasons he has been heard in **Die schöne Müllerin** with celebrated guitarist David Leisner, in Hennessy/Kitsakos’ solo cabaret **The Pleasing Recollection** at 54 Below, in the role of Figaro in **Il barbiere di Siviglia**, Papageno in **Die Zauberflöte**, baritone soloist in **Ein deutsches Requiem**, and the title role in the NY premiere of Carlisle Floyd’s last opera **Prince of Players**. In the 2023-2024 season, he returned to Carnegie Hall as baritone soloist in the world premiere of Kevin Boesiger’s **Songs of Hope**, joined The Metropolitan Opera for the workshop performance of **Grounded**, performed a solo cabaret at Joe’s Pub, covered the role of Hortensius in **La fille du régiment** with Lyric Opera of Chicago, joined Opera on the Avalon for the world premiere of Laura Kaminsky’s **February**, appeared at Joe’s Pub in the cabaret **Wonderful Town**, and debuted with Kentucky Opera as Hannah Before in their production of **As One**. Highlights of past seasons include Bernstein’s **Mass** with the Mostly Mozart Festival under the baton of Louis Langrée and gave the world premiere of a new chamber work by David Del Tredici at NYC’s Symphony Space.

Mr. Kelly is also an accomplished librettist; his poetry has been set by composers John Glover and Ben Moore. His newest project, an operatic adaptation of Wendy Macleod’s play **The House of Yes**, with composer



Kathy Kelly, was commissioned by Wolf Trap Opera and will premiere there in 2025, following a workshop in 2024.

He made his European début with Opernhaus Zürich in Handel's **Rinaldo** with William Christie and his French début with Opéra du Châtelet. He has performed in opera, chamber, and symphonic works under the batons of such conductors as Herbert Blomstedt, Michael Christie, Andreas Delfs, Jane Glover, Benton Hess, Louis Langrée, James Levine, Anne Manson, Nicholas McGegan, Steven Osgood, Leonard Slatkin, and Stephen Stubbs. Michael has also collaborated in recital with celebrated pianists David Fung, Kathleen Kelly, Malcolm Martineau, Shannon McGinnis, Spencer Myer, Jonathan Ware, Howard Watkins and Brian Zeger. Kelly is a passionate recital and chamber music interpreter and was a founder and artistic director of NY's SongFusion and the *Room to Breathe* concert series. He can be heard on multiple recordings as well as a documentary called **Secret Music**, celebrating the life and compositions of David Del Tredici. In 2018, NewMusicShelf released Michael's curated baritone volume of their *Anthology of New Music*: a collection of art songs by living composers. Recently, Michael was featured on the star-studded recording of Ben Moore's songs *Gathering*, and his solo album **Die Schöne Müllerin** with David Leisner was released last fall. Both are available to stream everywhere.

Mr. Kelly won first prizes in 2013's Positively Poulenc competition and 2011's Joy in Singing competition. He is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and The Juilliard School and was a member of the Opernstudio at Opernhaus Zürich.

Current as of September 1, 2025