

Calvin Griffin, bass-baritone

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BIOGRAPHY

Acclaimed for his "darkly lustrous voice" (South Florida Classical Review), bass-baritone Calvin Griffin has quickly established himself as an exciting talent in the opera world. Mr. Griffin is returning to singing this season, following a double lung transplant.

During the 2023–24 season, Mr. Griffin returned to the Metropolitan Opera to sing Adult Robert and cover Charles in *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*, and to cover the role of Grégorio in *Roméo et Juliette*. He also appeared in the Greek Orthodox Cathedral Foundation's Christmas Concert and performed at Carnegie Hall as the bass soloist in Schubert's *Mass in G* with MidAmerica Productions. Future seasons include a return to Minnesota Opera, as well as his Phoenix Symphony debut (TBA).

"The one God-given world-class voice on the stage belonged to Mr. Griffin."

WOSU RADIO — CHRISTOPHER PURDY

In recent seasons, Mr. Griffin made his debut with the Metropolitan Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago in the role of Adult Robert in *Fire Shut Up in My Bones*. He also debuted with Spoleto Festival USA as Colline in *La bohème* and returned to Opera Columbus as Tommy McIntyre in *Fellow Travelers*. Other engagements include his debut at Florentine Opera as Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro*; covering Lesbo in *Agrippina* with the Metropolitan Opera; returning to Atlanta Opera to sing Der Lautsprecher in *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* and El Dancaïro in *Carmen*; debuting at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis as Teacher 2/Grandma/Father in *On the Edge*; and returning to Wolf Trap Opera to sing Death in *Sāvitrī*. In the 2022–2023 season, Mr. Griffin returned to the Metropolitan Opera to cover Leader of the King's Guards in *Medea*, Doctor Grenvil in *La traviata*, and Young Emile Griffith in *Champion*, and joined Opera Project Columbus as a soloist in *I, Too, Sing America*.

Mr. Griffin recently returned to Florida Grand Opera to sing the title role in *Le nozze di Figaro*, sang Eddie in Minnesota Opera's production of *The Fix*, debuted as a Filene Artist with Wolf Trap Opera (singing Bartolo in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and Gomez in *L'heure espagnole*), and covered Zuniga in Dallas Opera's production of *Carmen*. Other engagements include Atlanta Opera as Mother in *The Seven Deadly Sins* and Morales in *Carmen*; Opera Birmingham as Escamillo in *Carmen*; Opera on the James as Leporello in *Don Giovanni*; Opera Orlando as Alidoro in *La Cenerentola*; and a return to Arizona Opera as Dr. Bartolo in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*.

Mr. Griffin is an alumnus of the Florida Grand Opera Studio, where he stepped in to sing Escamillo in Bizet's *Carmen*. He also sang Zaretsky in *Eugene Onegin*, Victor in *Before Night Falls*, and Samuel in *Un ballo in maschera* with the company. While in the Arizona Opera Studio, he performed the roles of the Captain in *Florencia en el Amazonas*, Zuniga in *Carmen*, Pistola in *Falstaff*, Count Ceprano in *Rigoletto*, Zaretsky in *Eugene Onegin*, Speaker/Second Armored Man in *Die Zauberflöte*, Hortensius in *La fille du régiment*, Colline in *La bohème*, and Dr. Grenvil in *La traviata*. In 2016, he made his Opera Columbus debut as Colline in *La bohème*.

"Griffin was a cunning and athletic schemer as the palace's jack of all trades."

SOUTH FLORIDA CLASSICAL REVIEW — LAWRENCE BUDMEN

Mr. Griffin has participated in the Glimmerglass Festival, singing Elviro in *Xerxes*, Undertaker in *Porgy and Bess*, Fabrizio (and covering Gottardo) in *La gazza ladra*, and covering the title role in *Sweeney Todd*. He spent two summers at Santa Fe Opera as an Apprentice Artist, where his assignments included Count Ceprano in *Rigoletto* and Hortensius in *La fille du régiment*. He sang the title role in *Gianni Schicchi* at the Aspen Music Festival and covered Leporello in *Don Giovanni* as an Apprentice Artist at Des Moines Metro Opera. He was a Studio Artist at Wolf Trap Opera and a participant at the Brevard Music Festival.

In concert, Mr. Griffin has sung with the Richmond Symphony as the bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah* and appeared as a soloist in Opera Columbus's *Opera Swings Jazz* concert. He made his Houston Symphony debut as First Apprentice in the Grammy Award–winning production of *Wozzeck*. Other solo performances include Bach's *Mass in B Minor* with Choral Artists of Sarasota and the baritone soloist in Brahms's *Ein deutsches Requiem* at The Ohio State University and Worthington United Methodist Church.

In competition, Mr. Griffin won First Place in the 2017 Dorothy Lincoln Smith Voice Competition. He was the 2015 winner of the Igor Gorin Memorial Award, received a Western Region Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Encouragement Award in 2014, won First Place in the 2012 Tuesday Musical Club Competition in San Antonio, won First Place in the 2011 Hal Leonard Vocal Competition, and received a Central Region Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Encouragement Award in 2010. He was also a winner in the Cincinnati College-Conservatory's Corbett Competition and received the Linda Candler Award at the Brevard Music Center.

Mr. Griffin received his Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Rice University's Shepherd School of Music under the tutelage of Dr. Stephen King and his Bachelor of Music from The Ohio State University.