

John Chest

Baritone



“The poised intensity of Chest’s presence and delivery complements the dark, rich colours in his voice, but the quicksilver wit of Rossini’s Figaro is also in his armoury...”

Opera Now

American baritone John Chest is winner of the prestigious 2010 Stella Maris International Vocal Competition and was a finalist in the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition in 2017. He has recently been awarded a Richard Tucker Music Foundation Career Grant. Until September 2016 he was a member of the ensemble at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, where his roles included the title role of *Billy Budd* in a new production by David Alden, *Valentin Faust*, *Ford Falstaff*, *Silvio Pagliacci*, *Figaro Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Papageno Die Zauberflöte*, *Guglielmo Cosi fan tutte*, and *Il Conte Almaviva Le nozze di Figaro*.

Highlights of the 2017-18 season include *Guglielmo Cosi fan tutte* (Bayerische Staatsoper), *Dr Falke Die Fledermaus* (Deutsche Oper Berlin) and his house debut at Glyndebourne Festival as *Pelléas et Mélisande*.

Recent engagements include *Albert Werther* at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, *Nick Carraway The Great Gatsby* (Staatsoper Dresden), *Valentin Faust* (Théâtre du Capitole Toulouse), the title role of *Don Giovanni* (Angers Nantes Opera), *Marcello La Bohème* (Washington National Opera), *Fritz Die tote Stadt* (Nantes and Nancy), *Nardo La finta giardiniera* and *Demetrius A Midsummer Night's Dream* (both Aix-en-Provence), *Eddie* in *Mark-*

Anthony Turnage's Greek (Salzburg Landestheater), *Ned Keene Peter Grimes* (Norwegian Opera), *Conte Almaviva Le nozze di Figaro* (Nationale Reisopera and Opera Philadelphia), and *Masetto Don Giovanni* in Bari, *Nick Carraway The Great Gatsby* (Staatsoper Dresden); and a return to Berlin for the title role of *Billy Budd*. Equally passionate about art song, Chest will sing his second recital at the Wigmore Hall in the coming season, following a successful debut recital there in 2013.

Chest is a graduate of the Opera Studio at the Bayerische Staatsoper, where he sang over eighty performances. He has held apprenticeships with the Santa Fe Opera and the Chicago Opera Theater, and took part in the prestigious Merola Opera Programme. He holds a master's degree in music from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University, where he studied with David Holloway.

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