

# 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 has sung at major opera houses throughout Europe and the United States. He studied at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University with David Holloway, held apprenticeships with the Santa Fe Opera and the Chicago Opera Theater and took part in the prestigious Merola Opera Programme. He is a graduate of the Opera Studio at the Bayerische Staatsoper and a former member of the ensemble at Deutsche Oper Berlin.

In the 2021-22 season he sings **Count Almaviva** *Le nozze di Figaro* for the Grand Théâtre de la Ville de Luxembourg, **Posa** *Don Carlos* for Theater Basel, and **Valens** *Theodora* with Il Pomo d'Oro. He also performs Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* and Bernstein's *Concerto for Orchestra: Jubilee Games* with the Orchestre national de Lille.

Recent operatic highlights include his house debuts with San Francisco Opera (title role **Billy Budd**) and Glyndebourne Festival Opera (**Pelléas** *Pelléas et Mélisande*), and his role debut as **Heathcliff** in Bernard Hermann's *Wuthering Heights* (Opéra national de Lorraine). Other engagements include **Count Almaviva** *Le nozze di Figaro* (Opernhaus Zürich, Opera Philadelphia, Deutsche Oper Berlin and Nederlandse Reisopera); **Marcello** *La bohème* (Washington National Opera and Semperoper Dresden); **Guglielmo** *Così fan tutte* (Staatsoper Hamburg, Deutsche Oper Berlin and Bayerische Staatsoper); **Valentin** *Faust* (Teatro Real Madrid, Deutsche Oper Berlin and Théâtre du Capitole Toulouse); title role **Don Giovanni** and **Fritz** *Die tote Stadt*

(Angers Nantes Opera); **Belcore** *L'elisir d'amore* and **Ned Keene** *Peter Grimes* (Den Norske Opera); title role **Billy Budd**, **Papageno** *Die Zauberflöte*, **Ford Falstaff**, **Silvio** *Pagliacci* and **Figaro** *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (Deutsche Oper Berlin); **Albert** *Werther* (Théâtre des Champs-Élysées); **Nardo** *La finta giardiniera* and **Demetrius** *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Festival d'Aix-en-Provence); **Nick Carraway** *The Great Gatsby* (Semperoper Dresden); **Eddie** in Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Greek* (Salzburg Landestheater); and **Masetto** *Don Giovanni* in Bari.

Equally passionate about art song, Chest sang his second recital with pianist Marcelo Amaral at the Wigmore Hall in 2018, following a successful debut recital there in 2013. He has also recently given recitals at the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Opéra de Lille and Paris Philharmonie.

Chest was the winner of the prestigious 2010 Stella Maris International Vocal Competition and a finalist in the 2017 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition and the 2011 Queen Sonja International Music Competition. He is a recipient of a Richard Tucker Music Foundation Career Grant.

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