**Otto Maidi, baritone.**

began singing at a tender age of eight in his church's Sunday school and his school. Otto Maidi was born in 1972 December 26 in South Africa (Pretoria). Otto as he grew up began to sing in various community choirs such as the S.O.S choir, T.U.A.T.A. Choir and the E.L.C.S.A.M.O.

In 1996 Otto joined the Pretoria State Theatre Chorus and the Pro Musica Opera Chorus. Few years later he made his debut as Zeno's father in both William Kentridge's musicals "Zeno @ 4 am" and "Confessions of Zeno" with these productions Otto sang and performed in the U.S and Europe.

From then on his path was decided and he began his journey of becoming a classical singer. He attended singing lessons at the Pretoria Technikon Opera School under Pierre du Toit and later moved on to Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where he obtained his Artist Certificate Degree in Vocal Performance under Prof. Barbara Hill-Moore.

Mr. Maidi is at home on the opera stage as well as the concert stage and hailed for his warm buttery tone and pure, bell-like quality. He performed the following: *Zeno's Father* in both **Zeno @ 4 am** and **Confessions of Zeno**, *Sacristan* in **Tosca**, *Bonzo* in **Madama Butterfly**, *Colline* in **La Boheme**, *Peter* in **Hansel and Gretel**, *Crown* in **Porgy & Bess**, *Olin Blitch* in **Susannah**, *Banco* in **Macbeth**, *Ramfis* in **Aida**, *Vodnick* in **Rusalka**, *Dulcamara* in **L'Elisir d'amore** and a highly acclaimed *Joe* in **Show Boat**.

Otto sang with the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra, the Turtle Creek Chorale (Dallas, Texas at the Meyerson Symphony Centre) as well as the Meadows Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Maidi also performed the following oratoria: Verdi Requiem, Brahms Requiem, Mozart Requiem, Charles Gounod Messe Sollenelle, Rossini Stabat Mater and George Philipp Telemann TWV 1:884 "Ich will den Kreuzweg gerne gehen".

Although he has sung and continues to sing in a variety of musical styles, being a successful International Opera Singer Concert Artist are at the top of his list of aspirations.