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**Kenneth Overton (baritone)**

has consistently received accolades for his rich gleaming voice and his many layered, powerful interpretations. After successful engagements with **New York City Opera’s** Schomberg Series, Kenneth makes his NYCO mainstage debut in Feburary 2012 as Doctor Grenvil in Verdi’s *La Traviata* and will return to **Boheme Opera**(NJ) as Papageno in *The Magic Flute*. Recently he performed a gala with the Sarasota Symphony, and also sang the title role of Porgy in *Porgy and Bess* with **Lexington Opera Society** /U of Kentucky Opera Theater. Kenneth also made his **Pensacola Opera** debut this season in the world premier of David Ott’s *The Widow’s Lantern and* returned to **Pensacola Opera** as Joe(*Showboat*). He reprised the role of Sharpless(*Madama Butterfly*) for **Opera Memphis**, and Porgy for The 75th Anniversary tour to **Opera Carolina**, and returned to **San Francisco Opera** as Sid (*La Fanciulla del West*).

Kenneth’s 2010-11 engagements include Germont(*La Traviata*) with **Sacramento Opera**, the soloist in *Handel’s Messiah* with **The Norwalk Symphony,** *Verdi’s Requiem* at Montclaire State University and at The Cathedral Basilica in NJ His 2008-9 engagements include debuts with the **Phoenix Symphony**(*Messiah*), **Norwalk Symphony**(*Messiah*), **The Paducha Symphony**(*Porgy*), a return engagement to the **Duluth Superior Symphony** in Vaughn Williams’ “*A Sea Symphony*”, and a concert featuring Mahler, Copland and opera arias with the **San Antonio Symphony**. He also sang the lead in **Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh’s** production of *Porgy and Bess,* a “magnificent” Gershwin evening with **Richmond Symphony**, and sang Lawyer Frazier with the **San Francisco Opera** in *Porgy and Bess*. In 2008 Kenneth made his debut as Porgy in *Porgy and Bess* at the famous **Deutsche Oper Berlin** in the critically acclaimed production from **Cape Town Opera** in South Africa. He recently toured the British Isles as Porgy in *Porgy and Bess* and, in the same role, opened **Opera Memphis’** 51st season. He also made his début recently with **Stadttheater Klagenfurt** as Jake (*Porgy and Bess)* and sang his first Escamillo (*Carmen)* with **Missouri Symphony Society**, and well as Leporello (*Don Giovanni*) with **Opera Memphis**, Bello (*La Fancuilla del West*) with **Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center**, as Bass soloist in Beethoven’s 9th Symphony with the **Annapolis Symphony Orchestra**, as the Baritone soloist in Vaughan Williams’ *Five Mystical Songs* with the **Oratorio Society of New Jersey** and a concert version of Porgy with **The Lithuanian State Symphony Orchestra.**

Other recent performances include a return to **Connecticut Opera** for Taddeo (*L’Italiana in Algeri*) and appeared as Sharpless(*Madama Butterfly*), Masetto(*Don Giovanni*) and Schaunard*(La Boheme*) with **Metro Lyric Opera** (NJ). He also appeared as soloist in Schubert’s *Mass in Ab* and Haydn’s Creation with the **Summit Chorale Festival** (NJ), in addition to his annual Spain tour with the **American Spiritual Ensemble**.

Kenneth has also been heard as Germont(*La Traviata*) at **Boheme Opera(NJ),** Leporello (*Don Giovanni*) at **Houston Ebony Opera Guild and Opera Memphis**; Ping (*Turandot*) with **Opera Delware, Nashville Opera, Opera Memphis, Sacramento Opera, Connecticut Opera and Opera Carolina**; Schaunard *(La Boheme*) and El Dancaire with **Opera Memphis**; Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*), Angelotti(*Tosca*) and Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*) with the **Chattanooga Symphony & Opera**; **Baz Luhrman’s Broadway *La Boheme***; Masetto (*Don Giovanni)* with **Connecticut Grand Opera***,* Schaunard*(La Boheme*) and Papageno(*Die Zauberflöte*) with **Connecticut Opera**; **City Center Encores’** production and recording of Romberg’s *New Moon*, and performed the role of Stephen Kumalo in *Lost in the Stars* with **Skylark Opera**

Kenneth’s intelligence and versatility have allowed him to excel in several modern works including *Corps of Discovery* by Michael Ching with **Opera Festival of New Jersey**; *Six Characters* by Hugo Weisgall; **Nexus Arts** (NY) *The Gilded Cage* by Kioulaphides. With the **Westfield Symphony Orchestra**, He made his Carnegie Hall début as Baritone soloist in *Come Follow Me* by Jackson Berkey with Mid-America Productions. He was a winner of the **Liederkranz Competition** and a national winner of the **Leontyne Price Vocal Competition.** He is also co-founder of **Opera Noire** **of New York**, a performing arts organization created to empower African-American artists to reach their full creative potential in a mutually supportive environment.

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