

Rafael Davila  
Tenor

Tenor Rafael Davila has quickly risen to be one of the most sought after tenors of his generation. With almost 60 roles already under his belt, he has been invited by Maestro Placido Domingo to sing the operas Norma and La Forza del Destino for Washington National Opera, Tosca for Los Angeles Opera and Manon Lescaut in Valencia, Spain under Mo. Domingo's conducting.

Recently Mr Davila has performed Dick Johnson in La Fanciulla del West and Don Jose in Carmen for Minnesota Opera, Cavaradossi in Tosca in Leipzig. returned to Washington National Opera as Don José in Carmen, Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly opposite soprano Ana María Martínez for Opera de Puerto Rico, made his debut with Chicago Lyric Opera in the world premiere of the opera Bel Canto, returned to Valencia as Radames in Verdi's Aida, appeared at the historic Macerata Festival in Italy as Turiddu in Cavalleria Rusticana and as Canio in Pagliacci, returned to Lyric Opera of Kansas City as Don Jose in Carmen after appearing with the company in the operas Tosca, Norma and Il Trovatore.

This season he debuts at the Metropolitan Opera as Don Jose in Carmen(cover), a role he just sang with the Florida Grand Opera, he will sing Dick Johnson in La Fanciulla del West for Michigan Opera Theatre, and the title role in Verdi's Otello with Teatro de la Opera. Future engagements include his debut as Verdi's Don Carlo with the Washington National Opera, Cavaradossi in Tosca with Opera de Puerto Rico and with Arizona Opera, and a recital at Wigmore Hall in London presented by the Rosenblatt Recital series.

The 2014-15 season marked the tenor's return to the historic Teatro San Carlo in Naples, Italy as Canio in I Pagliacci and as Turiddu in Cavalleria Rusticana after his debut with the company in 2004 in the title role of Verdi's Gustavo III (Riccardo in Un ballo in Maschera). That same season also marked his debut as Don Alvaro in La Forza del Destino for Washington National Opera as well as his debut with Florida Grand Opera as Cavaradossi in Tosca. Prior to that Mr. Dávila made his debut at the Washington National Opera as Pollione in Norma opposite Angela Meade and Dolora Zajick, as well as his debut as Radames in Aida for Manitoba Opera in Canada.

In 2012 he made his debut in the title role of Verdi's Otello for Sarasota Opera and as Manrico in Il Trovatore for Opera New Jersey and Kansas City Opera. That same year Rafael also made his debut in Spain in Nabucco with Opera de Bilbao and reprised the role of Calaf in Turandot for Opera de Puerto Rico.

In 2013 Rafael sang a concert for Culturarte de Puerto Rico opposite to Metropolitan Opera's stars Deborah Voigt and Anita Rachvelishvili.

Abroad Mr Davila made his debut as Rodolfo in Puccini's La Boheme for the Netherlands Reisopera, and for the New Zealand Opera as Don Jose in Carmen and as Alfredo in La

Traviata. He made his debut as Calaf in Puccini's Turandot for Connecticut Grand Opera, a role he also sang for the National Lyric Opera of New York, and sang the premiere of the opera Time and Again Barelas with the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra.

His repertory also includes the leading tenor roles in the operas; Werther, Gianni Schicchi, Lucia di Lamermoor, Rigoletto, Attila, Giovanna D'Arco and I Lombardi. Rafael has also appeared in the leading tenor roles of the operettas Die Fledermaus and The Merry Widow, as well as in the Spanish zarzuelas, Luisa Fernanda, El Huesped del Sevillano, Venezuelan zarzuela Alma Llanera, and the Cuban zarzuelas María La O and Cecilia Valdés.

His concert experience includes Verdi's Requiem, Rossini's Stabat Mater, Bach's Magnificat, Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (for the prestigious Casals' Festival), Mozart's Coronation Mass with soprano June Anderson and Estevez' Cantata Criolla which he performed with The Seattle Symphony Orchestra under Maestro Gerard Schwarz. His recordings of Ariel Ramírez' Misa Criolla as well as another recording of the operetta Cofresí by Rafael Hernández were both nominated for a Grammy Award.

Rafael began his musical training at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, completing later a Master's degree in Opera Performance at the University of Texas at Austin under the guidance of Metropolitan Opera tenor William Lewis. And has been working for the past ten years with Bill Schumann in NY as his vocal coach.

Mr. Davila has also appeared with L'Opéra du Montréal, Palm Beach Opera, San Antonio Opera, Opera Tampa, Austin Lyric Opera, Teatro de la Opera and Fort Worth Opera, among others having the opportunity to work with stage directors like; Anne Bogart, John Caird, Ron Daniels, Pippo Delbono, Anthony Laciura, John Pascoe, Ira Siff, Bernard Uzan and Francesca Zambello. He has also worked with some of the most renowned conductors including; Nello Santi, Teo Alcantara, Sarah Caldwell, Anton Coppola, Eugene Kohn, Renato Palumbo, Massimo Zanetti and Xian Shang, among others.