

# Rafael Dávila – Biography

Puerto Rican tenor Rafael Dávila stands among the distinguished dramatic tenors of his generation, with a career spanning more than twenty-five years and encompassing over sixty leading roles across the world's foremost opera houses. His artistry has graced the stages of the Metropolitan Opera, the Gran Teatre del Liceu, San Francisco Opera, the Palau de les Arts Reina Sofía, the Mariinsky Theatre, the Teatro Colón, the Teatro di San Carlo, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Macerata Opera Festival, Oper Leipzig, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in addition to appearances throughout Europe, North America, and Oceania.

Celebrated for the amplitude, bronze timbre, and dramatic authority of his voice, Dávila's repertoire is anchored in the great Italian and French spinto and dramatic canon. His portrayals include Don José (Carmen), Radamès (Aida), Cavaradossi (Tosca), Calaf (Turandot), Pinkerton (Madama Butterfly), Des Grieux (Manon Lescaut), Andrea Chénier, Dick Johnson (La fanciulla del West), Manrico (Il trovatore), Otello, Riccardo (Un ballo in maschera), Edgardo (Lucia di Lammermoor), Pollione (Norma), Don Alvaro (La forza del destino), Don Carlo, Samson (Samson et Dalila), Turiddu (Cavalleria rusticana), and Canio (Pagliacci).

For the past decade, he has been a principal artist on the roster of the Metropolitan Opera, where he has embodied the leading tenor roles in productions of Carmen, Don Carlo, Aida, Medea, and Nabucco. He returns this year as Macduff in Verdi's Macbeth, inaugurating the new season alongside Lise Davidsen and Quinn Kelsey.

His interpretation of Des Grieux in Manon Lescaut marked significant debuts with San Francisco Opera, Palau de les Arts in Valencia, and the Gran Teatre del Liceu. Equally acclaimed in the verismo repertoire, he has performed Cavalleria rusticana and Pagliacci at Teatro di San Carlo, the Macerata Opera Festival, and leading American companies including Pittsburgh Opera and Sarasota Opera.

In the coming season, Dávila makes his debut at La Monnaie as Turiddu, further consolidating his presence on the major European stage. He will also appear as Samson with Puerto Rico Opera and reprise his emblematic Don José at the Teatro SODRE in Montevideo, Uruguay. It was this defining portrayal that marked important milestones at Teatro Colón, the Metropolitan Opera, the Kennedy Center, and Opera New Zealand.

On the concert platform, he has appeared in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Mahler's Das Lied von der Erde, Verdi's Requiem, Rossini's Stabat Mater, Bach's Magnificat, Mozart's Requiem and Coronation Mass, and Handel's Messiah, collaborating with distinguished orchestras and conductors internationally.

Deeply committed to the Hispanic lyric tradition, he has also starred in zarzuelas including Los gavilanes, Luisa Fernanda, María la O, Marina, Alma Llanera, Cecilia Valdés, and El huésped del sevillano, as well as operettas such as The Merry Widow, The Mikado, and Die Fledermaus.

A graduate of the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music, he later earned his Master's degree in Opera from the University of Texas at Austin. He is a two-time Grammy Award nominee for recordings of Ariel Ramírez's Misa Criolla and Rafael Hernández's operetta Cofresí, and has been honored as "Artist of the Week" by OperaWire.