

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Krzysztof Biernacki – Baritone

Baritone Krzysztof Biernacki established strong reputation as a powerful performer, versatile stage director, and talented pedagogue. Born and raised in Poland, his professional credits include opera, oratorio, concert, and recital performances in Canada, United States, and Europe. Dr. Biernacki holds degrees from University of Manitoba (B. Mus.), University of Western Ontario (M. Mus.), and University of British Columbia (D.M.A). He holds the position of Assistant Professor and Head of Applied Voice at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville.

As a singer Dr. Biernacki has appeared in principal roles with Vancouver Opera, Manitoba Opera, Calgary Opera, Orchestra London Canada, Theaters of Jablonec and Usti nad Labem in Czech Republic, as well as opera ensembles of University of British Columbia and University of Western Ontario. Highlights of his operatic engagements include *Eugene Onegin*, *Barber of Seville*, *Madama Butterfly*, *La Boheme*, *Cunning Little Vixen*, *La Fanciulla del West*, *Rigoletto*, *Carmen*, *Dido & Aeneas*, *The Crucible*, *Merry Widow*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Der Freischütz*, *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *Don Pasquale*, *Gianni Schicchi*, and *Merry Widow*.

Dr. Biernacki's commitment to contemporary music is highlighted by world premiere performances heard on CBC Radio and CBC Saturday Afternoon at the Opera including a highly acclaimed production of *Filumena* co-produced by the Calgary Opera and Banff Centre for Performing Arts. Last summer Dr. Biernacki made his Carnegie Hall debut with UNF Wind Ensemble performing works of Tchaikovsky and Tosti. Last October he was reengaged for a recital of opera arias and duets at Carnegie Zankel Hall.

Praised for excellent musicianship and respected as a solo recitalist, Dr. Biernacki frequently performs song recitals ranging in repertoire from Haydn to Szymanowski, Shostakovich, and Britten. His concert and oratorio appearances include Vancouver, Winnipeg, Okanagan, and Calgary Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Vancouver Bach Choir. His summer 2009 engagements included solo recitals in Italy and Poland, concerts with North Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, and two opera engagements at the European Music Academy in Czech Republic where he is on faculty as a stage director and faculty member. Additional stage directing accomplishments include establishment of highly successful UNF Opera Ensemble which produces two complete opera productions per year, engages in community outreach, student recruitment, and propagation of operatic arts in the Jacksonville community.

Dr. Biernacki is often engaged as an adjudicator, competition judge, masterclass presenter and clinician. He is in high demand as a voice teacher and his students have been accepted to prestigious graduate programs including Manhattan School of Music, San Francisco Conservatory, University of Michigan, Boston Conservatory, and New York University.