

## **Roland Burks, bass-baritone**

American born bass-baritone Roland Burks is emerging as one of the leaders of a new generation of vocalists whose range and flexibility recall the great masters of the bel canto era. Hailing from America's Midwest, Mr. Burks is the recipient of numerous vocal scholarships and awards, including top honors in the Midwest region of the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions.

He has performed extensively throughout the United States and Europe, with such companies as Houston Grand Opera, Tri-Cities Opera, Connecticut Opera, The Phoenix Symphony, Teatro Real (Madrid, Spain), Ernen Festival of Tomorrow, (Ernen, Switzerland), Bregenz Festival (Bregenz, Austria), and International Opera Theater in Umbria, Italy.

Mr. Burks' engaging stage presence and versatility have garnered critical acclaim in Opera, Oratorio, and Musical Theater alike. In addition to the sacred Oratorios and Cantatas of Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, and Mozart, other favorite portrayals of Mr. Burks include; Raimondo in "Lucia di Lammermoor", The Four Villains in "Les Contes d'Hoffmann", Colline in "La Bohème", and the title roles in Handel's masterpiece "Giulio Cesare", and Stephen Sondheim's award winning Broadway Musical "Sweeney Todd".