

JON LEE KEENAN

TENOR

Tenor Jon Lee Keenan is a native of Las Vegas, Nevada. Influenced at a young age by his father, a classically trained jazz saxophonist, Jon cultivated an interest for performing a variety of musical styles. While a high school student at the Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts, Jon found himself winning state vocal competitions, writing music and playing guitar with his 8-piece original ska band, and singing first tenor with the local collegiate vocal ensemble. After earning a triple degree in music at UNLV in Las Vegas, Jon moved out to Southern California to pursue a career in classical singing, studying Vocal Arts at the USC Thornton School of Music. Jon was first introduced to the Los Angeles classical music scene by the Los Angeles Master Chorale with whom he has been featured as a soloist in each season since joining on with the group in 2007. Recent highlights with LAMC include the role of “Evangelist” in Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion*, tenor soloist in Handel’s *Messiah*, and the narrator in Hugo Distler’s *The Story of Christmas*. Currently, Jon is in demand on opera stages and concert halls throughout California and the United States. Recent appearances with Southwest Chamber Music include collaborations on Britten’s *A Birthday Hansel* for tenor and harp, and *A Sunbeam’s Architecture*, an orchestral song cycle by E.E. Cummings and Elliot Carter at Red Cat. Recent opera roles with the Pacific Opera Project include “Don Ottavio” in *Don Giovanni* and “Tanzmeister” in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Over the past few seasons, Jon has helped create several new exciting characters through collaborations with The Industry LA including “Clyde Barrow” in *Bonnie and Clyde* (Andrew McIntosh), “Little Monk” in Brecht’s *Galileo* (Andy Akiho), Napoleon Bonaparte in Haydn’s *Head* (Nicholas Deyoe). This past June, Jon performed and recorded the role “Gniphos” in the LA Philharmonic’s co-production of Lou Harrison’s *Young Caesar* with The Industry LA, slated for international release in 2018. 2017-18 season’s highlights include appearances with the Los Angeles Master Chorale in Handel’s *Israel in Egypt*; Orange County’s Pacific Chorale as the role of “Evangelist” in Bach’s *St. John Passion*; tenor soloist in Mozart’s rarely heard “Little Masonic” cantata *Laut Verkünde unsre Freude* conducted by Gustavo Dudamel; and the role of “Gunner” in the premiere of Orson Welles’ classic *War of the Worlds* turned into opera by Yuval Sharon, Anne Gosfield, and the LA Philharmonic.