

300 Word Bio

Baritone Jorell Williams is acclaimed for his commanding stage presence, stylistic versatility, and richly expressive voice, performing leading roles across North America and Europe in repertoire ranging from Mozart and bel canto to contemporary opera and concert works. Praised for a “solid vocal core and easy, natural production” (*Opera News*) and a “deliciously resonant baritone voice” (*Broadway World*), he has been hailed by *The Washington Post* as “a rock-solid singer with a keen understanding of his expressive depths.”

His operatic repertoire includes Figaro and Count Almaviva in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, Belcore in *L’elisir d’amore*, Alexandre in Nadia Boulanger’s *La Ville Morte*, and Dizzy Gillespie in Daniel Schnyder’s *Yardbird*, a role to which he returns in a forthcoming engagement. This season, he appears with **New Orleans Opera** in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* as L’Officier and Le Geôlier, and as soloist in Carlisle Floyd’s *Pilgrimage*. Other major operatic appearances include the **Canadian Opera Company**, **Greek National Opera**, **Vancouver Opera**, **Opera Omaha**, **Indianapolis Opera**, **Pacific Opera Victoria**, **Tapestry Opera**, and **Bard SummerScape Festival**.

On the concert stage, Williams is a sought-after interpreter of major choral-orchestral repertoire, performing Handel’s *Messiah*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, Fauré’s *Requiem*, Duruflé’s *Requiem*, Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9*, Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Requiem*, and Walton’s *Belshazzar’s Feast* with ensembles including the **National Philharmonic**, **Omaha Symphony**, **Symphony Nova Scotia**, and **Choir St-Laurent**. He has toured internationally with the **Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra** in Wynton Marsalis’ *Abyssinian Mass* and Duke Ellington’s *Sacred Concerts*.

An active composer and arranger, Williams has created works for Grammy-winning artists and major ensembles, expanding American and Canadian art song repertoire. He holds degrees from the **Manhattan School of Music** and **SUNY Purchase College**, combining vocal authority with dramatic nuance to establish himself as a compelling interpreter of leading lyric baritone roles.

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