

Richard Hobson, Baritone

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Richard Hobson, baritone, is an Affiliate Artist at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where he performs, teaches voice and directs opera. Since he arrived at Southern University in 2005, Richard has produced and directed numerous operas including **Die Fledermaus, Cosi Fan Tutte, The Crucible, Porgy and Bess, The Telephone** and **Amahl and the Night Visitors**. These complete operas have been accompanied by a host of scenes from various other operas.

Prior to coming to Southern University, where he is now a Full Professor, Mr. Hobson held positions at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey, The University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Arkansas, The University of Maryland, Philander Smith College, Coppin State University, Peabody Preparatory School, and Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Hobson holds a BA in Music from Hamline University in St. Paul, MN., a MM in Vocal Performance from The University of Michigan and an ABD from The University of North Texas. Richard has also done post graduate work in Opera Performance and French and German Art Song Literature at The Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore.

Mr. Hobson is acclaimed for the “strong dramatic persona” he brings to his performances. Appearances have taken him throughout the USA to companies including the **Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, The Dallas Opera, Baltimore Opera, Mississippi Opera, Shreveport Opera, and Michigan Opera Theater**. In his Italian operatic debut, he was heard as Amonasro at the **Piccolo Scala** (Milano, Italy) in the Franco Zeffirelli production of **Aida** in the summer of 2002.

Other assignments have included the title role in **Rigoletto**, Porgy in **Porgy And Bess**, Escamillo in **Carmen**, Iago in **Othello**, and George in **Of Mice and Men**.

Richard made his debut at **The Metropolitan Opera** in 2001 and was on the Met's roster for ten seasons performing roles in **Madama Butterfly, Doctor Faustus, Boris Godunov, La Juive, and Die Frau Ohne Schatten**. Richard also participated in The Metropolitan Opera's new production of **The Nose** by Shostakovich and **Lulu** by Berg.

In the 2010-2011 season he was involved in the Met's highly acclaimed new production of Verdi's *Don Carlo*.

Other recent engagements include Scarpia in *Tosca* with Amore Opera and Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Chelsea Opera, both in New York City and Porgy in *Porgy and Bess* at the **Theatre am Rhein** in Dusseldorf, Germany and with the **Polish National Opera** in Warsaw. He returned to **The Polish National Opera** as Amonasro in Verdi's *Aida*. Richard is also noted for his performances as Rigoletto, Enrico, Count di Luna, Marcello, Sharpless, Tonio, Alfio, Egberto in Verdi's **Aroldo** and Iago among other roles.

In March of the 2004-2005 season, Richard made a very successful debut with **The Delaware Opera** as Porgy in *Porgy and Bess*. He also sang in *Samson and Dalilah* with the **Metropolitan Opera** and did his first Iago in *Othello* with **Regina Opera** in Brooklyn, New York. In October 2005, Mr. Hobson debuted with Gateway Classical Music Society as Amonasro in Verdi's *Aida* in Manhattan. He also sang the Four Villains in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* with Taconic Opera in Westchester, NY.

He began the 2003-2004 season at the **Metropolitan Opera** in their new production of *La Juive* by Halevy. He subsequently appeared in *Boris Goudonov* and *Madama Butterfly*. The 2002-2003 season featured a return to the **Handel Choir of Baltimore** for their annual performances of *Messiah*. In the summer of 2003 Mr. Hobson sang Germont in *La Traviata* in New Jersey's *Metro Lyric Opera*. In the spring he returned to the roster of the **Metropolitan Opera** for their new production of *Les Troyens*.

The 2001-2002 season began at the **Metropolitan Opera**, where he was heard as 'One-Eyed Brother' in their much heralded production of *Die Frau Ohne Schatten* (Strauss), and as Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*. That season also held debuts at **Pittsburgh Opera** as Henry Davis in Kurt Weill's *Street Scene*, and at **Austin Lyric Opera** in the title role in *Rigoletto*. Mr. Hobson also sang Enrico in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Marcello in *La Boheme* in New Jersey's **Metro Lyric Opera** productions in August 2002.

Career highlights include his **Metropolitan Opera** debut as Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*, and his **New York City Opera** debut in the title role of Porgy in *Porgy & Bess*. At both Nashville Opera and Toledo Opera, Richard debuted as Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, and his first Scarpia (*Tosca*) for **Houston Ebony Opera Guild**. Richard sang his first *Rigoletto* in a concert version with the **Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra**, and his debut at the **Spoleto Festival USA** as the Sorceress in *Dido and Aeneas*.

An outstanding musician, he has interpreted leading roles in world premiere performances of several new works including: Josiah in *Harriet, the Woman Called Moses* with **Skylight Opera Theatre**; General Vorchieliff in Hoiby's *Something New for the Zoo* at **Prince Georges Opera**; the title role in *Martin Luther: Dramatic Oratorio, A Voice Crying in the Wilderness* by Nat Irving with the **Dallas Symphony**; and Rogue in *The Idiot*, a work-in-progress at **The Banff Music Centre** in Canada.

In the media, Richard has appeared in a televised aria concert with the **Baltimore Symphony**. Awards are numerous including the **Sullivan Foundation Career Grant, Metropolitan Opera Guild National Council Auditions, Caruso Competition, Pavarotti Competition; Dallas Opera Guild Career Grant; Baltimore Music Club, and the American Traditions Competition.**