

Praised for his “full and clear” sound and engaging stage presence, young tenor Aaren Rivard is quickly establishing himself as an exciting artist on the rise. This season, he joins [Pensacola Opera](#), singing Ruiz in *Il Trovatore*, covering Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, and performing as a featured soloist for the *Easy to Love* concert of beloved standards and Broadway showtunes. Upcoming performances include his role debut as Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* with [Wichita Grand Opera](#), and Spoletta in *Tosca* and Andrew Johnson in *The Mother of Us All* with the [Chautauqua Opera Company](#).

In the 2018/19 season, he joined [Opera Colorado](#) in their Artist-in-Residence Program, singing Basilio and Don Curzio in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Gastone in *La traviata*, Roméo in a touring production of *Roméo et Juliette*, and the Witch in a children’s production of *Hansel and Gretel*. In addition to these main stage responsibilities, he also covered the leading role of Alfredo in *La Traviata*.

During that summer, he performed with [Central City Opera](#) as a Studio Artist, performing selections in their new “Encore!: A Musical Revue” series, and as a core ensemble member. His nuanced performances and commitment to exceptional music making earned him the prestigious John Moriarty Award, awarded on the final performance of the festival to a singer demonstrating uncompromising dedication to artistic excellence. He is also an alumnus of the premier young artist training program with [Des Moines Metro Opera](#), which he attended in the summer of 2018.

Equally at home in concert repertoire, Aaren was featured as the tenor soloist for *Handel’s Messiah*, *Stravinsky’s Les Noces*, and *Orff’s Carmina Burana* at his alma mater, Wichita State. Other appearances include a series of Bach Cantatas with [White Mountain Music Arts](#), *Mozart’s Requiem* and *Handel’s Messiah* with the University of Southern Maine, *Whitbourn’s Magnificat* with [Maine Choral Arts Society](#), and the musical premiere of Dan Sonenberg’s *The Summer King* with [The American Opera Project](#).

Aaren received a Master of Music in Opera Performance at [Wichita State University](#), where he studied with world renowned bass-baritones Alan Held and Samuel Ramey. During his years of study, he performed Nemorino in *L’elisir d’amore*, the title role of Bénédic in *Béatrice et Bénédic*, Tito in *La clemenza di Tito*, Basilio in *Le nozze di Figaro*, and his performance of “Aria of the Worm” from *The Ghosts of Versailles* won him the Wichita State Concerto Competition in 2017.

He also holds a Bachelor of Music in Voice from the [University of Southern Maine](#), as a student of Ellen Chickering. He took the stage as Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, Acis in *Acis and Galatea*, and a wide array of scenes programs and concerts, spanning the entire classical canon. He performed in multiple seasons with [Opera Maine](#), in productions of *La fille du régiment*, *Madama Butterfly*, *La Bohème*, *Rigoletto*, and *Tosca*. As a member of the Young Artist Program for their production of *Gianni Schicchi*, he sang Amantio di Nicolao and covered the role of Rinuccio. He also joined the [Portland Symphony Orchestra](#) in a concert performance of *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, singing the Chaplain.

Aaren is the recipient of multiple vocal awards and scholarships, including the Naftzger Vocal Prize, and the Barbara Littlefield Vocal Prize from the [Portland Rossini Club](#), the oldest musical club in the United States. He is also a previous winner of the Lillian Nordica Award, annually granted to a singer pursuing higher musical education in Maine, demonstrating exceptional ability and extraordinary promise. Aaren is a native of South China, Maine.