

**PRESENTER:** Dr. David Dillard

**SESSION TITLE:** I'm a baritone! What do I care about tempo di mezzo? Understanding the musical and dramatic structure of bel canto arias

**SESSION TYPE:** Lecture

### **SESSION DESCRIPTION**

Contemporary classical voice pedagogy ostensibly rests on the principles of bel canto technique. It seems imperative then that in order to understand and teach bel canto singing, one must also understand the musical and dramatic structure of the music that demanded this technique - the double aria or cavatina/cabaletta. Most of us are familiar with this two-part, slow/fast aria. However, careful consideration reveals what is, in fact, a four-section form. This presentation aims to offer a deeper understanding and appreciation of the primo ottocento la solita forma aria which underlays the basis of the bel canto singing tradition. Attendees will gain insights into the structure of arias in la solita forma by Rossini, Bellini, Donizetti, and Verdi, and explore how these composers adapt this form to heighten the dramatic narrative through the music. We will also engage in practical applications for preparing students who include these arias in their audition package.

### **PRESENTER BIO**

Baritone David Dillard, now in his sixteenth year at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, has taught applied voice, lyric diction, opera history, opera workshop, song literature, voice pedagogy, music theory, and directed the opera. Professionally, he has appeared as a soloist in fifteen productions at Union Avenue Opera. His eclectic operatic repertoire includes both comprimario and leading roles such as Dr. Malatesta in *Don Pasquale*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, the Police Sergeant in *Pirates of Penzance*, Polyphemus in *Acis and Galatea*, Owen Hart in *Dead Man Walking*, and the Vicar in *Albert Herring* just to name a few. He has also performed with Winter Opera St. Louis, Florida Grand Opera, DiCapo Opera Theater, Austin Lyric Opera, Tanglewood Music Festival, Lake George Opera, and the Southern Illinois Music Festival. David is a passionate proponent of art song repertoires. He has performed Schubert's *Winterreise* six times, three with Martin Katz at the piano.