

CHAD SHELTON, tenor

Opera magazine praises tenor Chad Shelton as an “impressive” and sought-after Herod, “singing with heroic amplitude and thrust and bringing the text to vivid life.” In the 2025-26 season, he makes returns to San Francisco Opera as Father Grenville in **Dead Man Walking**, Houston Grand Opera as the Kronprinz in **Silent Night**, and Cincinnati Opera as Herod in **Salome**. He also returns to the Metropolitan Opera for its productions of **Carmen** and **Madama Butterfly**. His future engagements include a return to the Metropolitan Opera and his debut with Seattle Opera. Last season, he brought his acclaimed portrayal of Herod in **Salome** both the Metropolitan Opera and in his German debut with Staatsoper Stuttgart. Also at the Metropolitan Opera, he sang Tcheikalinsky in **Pique Dame**.



He is a frequent leading presence with Houston Grand Opera and has joined the company previously for Herod in **Salome**, Pollione in **Norma**, Aegisth in **Elektra**, Don José in **Carmen**, Froh in **Das Rheingold**, Cavaradossi in **Tosca**, Alfredo in **La traviata**, Pinkerton in **Madama Butterfly**, Father Confessor in **Dialogues de Carmélites**, the Witch of Endor in **Saul**, Fredrik Egerman in **A Little Night Music**, Camille in **Die lustige Witwe**, Janek in **The Makropolous Case**, Tamino in **Die Zauberflöte**, Captain Vere in **Billy Budd**, and Nemorino in **L'elisir d'amore**. Acclaimed for his performances of contemporary works, he recently triumphed in leading tenor roles in the world premiere of O'Regan's **The Phoenix** and Chairman Mao in Adams' **Nixon in China** with the company, following his debut of the latter with San Diego Opera. He also created the roles of Nico in **Lysistrata** and Laurie in **Little Women** (released on the Ondine label and broadcast on PBS), both by Mark Adamo, Charles II in Floyd's **Prince of Players**—also sung with Florentine Opera, as well as Ulises in Catán's **Salsipuedes** in addition to singing Arcadio in the latter composer's **Florencia en el Amazonas**, all with Houston Grand Opera as well.

Previously at the Metropolitan Opera, he has sung Pinkerton in **Madama Butterfly**, Father Grenville in **Dead Man Walking**, Bob Boles in **Peter Grimes**, Rodrigo in **Otello**, Loud Stone in Aucoin's **Eurydice**, and the Third Player in Dean's **Hamlet** as well as joined the company for its productions of **Elektra**, **Norma**, **Carmen**, **La traviata**, and **Cyrano de Bergerac**. He has joined the Opéra national de Lorraine numerous times, including for the title role of **Idomeneo**, Giasone in Cherubini's **Medea**, Don José in **Carmen**, Jack in Gerald Barry's **The Importance of Being Earnest**, Lysander in **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, Guido Bardi in **Eine florentinische Tragödie**, Lechmere in **Owen Wingrave**, Tamino in **Die Zauberflöte**, and the title role of **Candide**.

He has also sung Sir Edgar Aubry in **Der Vampyr** and the Prince in **The Love of Three Oranges** with Grand Théâtre de Genève, Lysander in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** with Théâtre de Caen; Tamino in **Die Zauberflöte** with Grand Théâtre de Genève, Opera Pacific; further performances of to the title role of **Idomeneo** with Théâtre de Caen and Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg; Erik in **Der fliegende Holländer** with Santa Fe Opera, Opera Colorado, Boston Lyric Opera; Herod in **Salome** with Des Moines Metro Opera; Pollione in **Norma** with North Carolina Opera, Pinkerton in **Madama Butterfly** with Opéra national de Bordeaux and Lyric Opera Baltimore; Don José in **Carmen** with Opéra-Théâtre de Metz, Seiji Ozawa Music Academy, Austin Opera, Portland Opera, Utah Opera, Festival Classique at the Hague, Pensacola Opera, and Opera Pacific; and Alfredo in **La traviata** with Austin Lyric Opera, Arizona Opera, Utah Opera, Nevada Opera, Opera Pacific, Central City Opera, Hyogo Performing Arts Center in Japan, and Pensacola Opera. He has also joined Central City Opera for a host of other roles including further performances of Laurie in **Little Women**, Pinkerton in **Madama Butterfly**, Don Ottavio in **Don Giovanni**, Fernando in Granados' **Goyescas**, Cavaradossi in **Tosca**, and Reverend Paris in **The Crucible**.

Other career highlights include Pilade in **Ermione** and further performances of Nico in **Lysistrata** and Laurie in **Little Women** with New York City Opera; E. Porter Alexander in the world premiere of Glass' **Appomattox** with San Francisco Opera; Hindley in Floyd's **Wuthering Heights** with Florentine Opera; Duca in **Rigoletto** and Edgardo in **Lucia di Lammermoor** with Austin Lyric Opera; Roméo in **Roméo et Juliette** with Madison Opera; Alfred in **Die Fledermaus** and Jacquino in **Fidelio** with Dallas Opera; Leo in Blitzstein's **Regina** with Lyric Opera of Chicago and Florida Grand Opera. He has also sung Belmonte in **Die Entführung aus dem Serail** with Opera Australia and Portland Opera; Don Ottavio in **Don Giovanni** with Opera Colorado; and Ferrando in **Così fan tutte** with Arizona Opera, Kentucky Opera, and at the Hyogo Performing Arts Center. His contemporary repertoire also includes further performances of **Little Women** with Central City Opera, Chautauqua Opera, and Opera Omaha; Tom Rakewell in **The Rake's Progress** with the Teatro Municipal de São Paulo and Lyric Opera of Kansas City; Sam in Floyd's **Susannah** with Chautauqua Opera; and George in Danielpour's **Margaret Garner** with Cincinnati Opera and the Opera Company of Philadelphia.

Mr. Shelton is equally in demand as a concert soloist and has joined the Minnesota Orchestra for Mozart's **Requiem**, Beethoven's **Symphony No. 9**, Janáček's **The Diary of One Who Vanished**, as well as the title role in concert performances of **Candide**. His performances of Respighi's **Belkis, Queen of Sheba Suite** and Argento's **Le tombeau d'Edgar Poe**, also with the Minnesota Orchestra, have been released on the Reference label. He has sung Siegel's **Kaddish** with the Houston Symphony; Beethoven's **Symphony No. 9** with the Utah Symphony, Pacific Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic, and Colorado Music Festival and Mozart's **Requiem** with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; Verdi's **Requiem** with the Brussels Philharmonic; Handel's **Messiah** with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and the Houston Symphony; and a gala concert of opera favorites with the Puerto Rico Symphony Orchestra.

He is the recipient of a Richard Tucker Foundation Career Grant and the Richard F. Gold Career Grand from the Shoshana Foundation. He holds a Master of Music degree and Artist diploma from the Yale University School of Music and a Bachelor of Music degree from Louisiana State University.

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