



Drew Comer

Bass

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Praised for his “clear enunciation and powerful steady voice” by *Opera Canada*, **Drew Comer** is an exciting American bass originally from Indianapolis, Indiana. In the summer of 2024, he will join **The Santa Fe Opera** as an **Apprentice Artist**, where he will sing in productions of *La traviata* (**Flora’s Servant, Doctor Grenville** (cover), and chorus), *Don Giovanni* (**Il Commendatore** (cover) and chorus), *Der Rosenkavalier* (**Waiter 2, Lackey 4** (cover), and chorus), and the world premiere of **Gregory Spears’ *The Righteous*** (chorus), as well as the Apprentice Scenes program.

After receiving a Performer Diploma from Indiana University in May 2023, Comer joined **Cedar Rapids Opera** as a **Smith Young Artist** where performed the role of **Simone** in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*. In April 2023 he performed the role of Simone in **Carol Vaness's** Opera Workshop, in addition to scenes from *Don Carlo* (**Filippo II**) and *Billy Budd* (**Claggart**). He was recently seen as a Guard in the world premiere of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Shulamit Ran's** opera *Anne Frank* at Indiana University under the direction of **Crystal Manich**. In February 2023, he performed the entirety of Schubert's *Schwanengesang* to great acclaim, earning a Performer Certificate from Indiana University in recognition of "musical understanding and technical proficiency in recital." In September 2022, he performed the role of Il Commendatore in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with **Indiana University Opera Theater** under the baton of **Louis Lohraseb** and direction of **Michael Shell**. Comer also made his debut as the **Bass Soloist** in **Beethoven’s 9th Symphony** with the Indiana University Philharmonic Orchestra and Oratorio Chorus, led by maestro **Thomas Wilkins**. He is the recipient of an **Encouragement Award** from the Idaho-Montana District of the 2022-23 **Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition**.

Comer made his Italian debut in July 2022 at the **Musica e Musica Festival** in Mercatello sul Metauro, Italy, where he sang the role of Simone in Puccini’s *Gianni Schicchi*, conducted by **Bruce Stasyna**. Highlights of the 2021-22 season included a last-minute call to jump in as the **Second Armored Man** in Mozart’s *Die Zauberflöte*, his debut as **Pistola** in Verdi’s *Falstaff* (both productions under the direction of Michael Shell), and singing the role of **The Sheriff** in an exciting new production of William Grant Still’s *Highway 1, USA* directed by **Kimille Howard**, all produced at Indiana University Opera Theater. In March 2022, he was a

finalist and prize winner at the **Orpheus National Vocal Competition** in Murfreesboro, TN. He also had his first foray into the role of Il Commendatore from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* when he performed the second act in Carol Vaness's Opera Workshop in December 2021. Previously, he was seen in the role of **Sarastro** in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* with **Bloomington Chamber Opera** in the company's inaugural production. Additionally, in the 2019-20 season Comer brought life to the role of **Marco** in **James Marvel's** radical adaptation of Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* as well as the bumbling drunk **Antonio** in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro* conducted by maestro **Antony Walker**, both performed with Indiana University Opera Theater.

Following his 2018 portrayal of **Curio** in Handel's *Giulio Cesare* with Indiana University Opera Theater, Comer made his international debut in with the **Halifax Summer Opera Festival** in Halifax, Nova Scotia, performing the roles of **Seneca** (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*) and **Masetto** (*Don Giovanni*). Other role credits include **Pooh-Bah** (*The Mikado*), **Publio** (*La clemenza di Tito*), **Sarastro** (*Die Zauberflöte*), and **Osmin** (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*) in scenes directed by soprano **Katherine Jolly** in her Opera Workshop at Indiana University. In addition to his work onstage, Comer has also enjoyed performing in masterclasses led by soprano **Caroline Worra** and tenor **Matthias Klink**.

A graduate of Indiana University's prestigious **Jacobs School of Music**, where he studied with **Jane Dutton** and **Gary Arvin**, Comer holds both B.M. and M.M. degrees in Vocal Performance and a minor in Spanish. He was awarded the **Wilfred C. Bain Award in Opera**, which funded his Performer Diploma studies.