

JAY HUNTER MORRIS, TENOR

Grammy winner and Author Jay Hunter Morris first stepped into the national spotlight when he created the role of Tony in Terrence McNally's Tony Award-winning play *Master Class* on Broadway in 1995. And then, as documented in Susan Froemke's *Wagner's Dream*, he made shockwaves throughout the opera world in 2011 after stepping in at the eleventh hour to sing the title role in *Siegfried* at **The Metropolitan Opera** as part of their new production of Wagner's *Ring Cycle*, directed by Robert Lepage. That production was broadcast live to cinemas worldwide and earned a GRAMMY award for Best Opera Recording.

Firmly established as one of the world's leading heldentenors, Jay went on to sing *Siegfried* in Budapest at the **Wagner Days Festival**, and again with **Houston Grand Opera** and **San Francisco Opera** (with Sir Donald Runnicles conducting). Ensuing successes included his first Tristan in Valencia (under the baton of Zubin Mehta), and Schoenberg's *Guerre-Lieder* at the **Vienna Konzerthaus** with Kent Nagano. His portrayal of Teague in Higdon's *Cold Mountain* has also earned him an additional two GRAMMY nominations, and he has created roles in eight world premiere operas.

Other notable roles and appearances for Mr. Morris have included a *PBS Great Performances* broadcast of Ahab in *Moby Dick* (a role that he also repeated with both **Dallas Opera** and **LA Opera**); performances of John Adams' *The Gospel According to the Other Mary* with the **San Francisco Symphony**, **St. Louis Symphony** (at Carnegie Hall), and in Rome with the composer conducting; Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* with the **Taiwan Philharmonic**; Tristan under the direction of Mariusz Trelinski in Beijing; Erik in *Der fliegende Holländer* with the **Dallas Opera**, **Cincinnati Opera** and **Atlanta Opera**, and Aegisth in *Elektra* with **The Metropolitan Opera**. Most recently, he was seen as Macheath in **Atlanta Opera's** production of *The Threepenny Opera* (2021) and a role that has become his calling card—Herod in Strauss' *Salome*—at **Bard Conservatory's Fisher Center** (2022) and with **Tulsa Opera** (2022).

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