



## Italian American Heritage Club Of Hunterdon County

KEEPING OUR *Pride*, CELEBRATING OUR *Culture*, REMEMBERING OUR *Past*

### Program Notes for MARCH: James Valenti



The March dinner meeting will be a night with tenor, James Valenti.

American tenor and New Jersey resident, James Valenti has been hailed for a voice of Italianate beauty, a handsome stage presence and elegant musicianship by the

leading opera companies of America, Europe and Asia. He is considered one of his generation's brightest rising stars. James Valenti's repertoire spans the romantic leading men of both Italian and French repertoire. His signature roles include Puccini's Rodolfo in *La bohème* and Lt. Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly*, Verdi's Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto* and Alfredo in *La traviata*, as well as Gounod's Romeo and Faust. He is equally at home with the bel canto roles of Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'amore* and Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

The 2008-2009 season sees James Valenti's debut with the Dallas Opera as Rodolfo which he also sings in Japan under Myung-Whun Chung. He sings his first performances of the Verdi *Messa da Requiem* in Norman, debuts at the Deutsche Oper Berlin as Alfredo opposite Angela Gheorghiu, sings The Duke with Maggio Musicale in Firenze, as well as his debut as *Werther* in Lyon, France and Tokyo, Japan. He makes returns to Palm Beach Opera (the Duke) and Opera Carolina (Faust) and performs Lt. Pinkerton for his debut in Detroit. He sings Mercadante's rarely heard *Il Giuramento* in his debut with Washington Concert Opera under Antony Walker. Future seasons will see his debuts with the Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera Covent Garden and the Paris Opera.

James Valenti made his professional debut at age 25 in 2003 at the Teatro dell'opera di Roma in Franco Zeffirelli's famous production of *la bohème*. He has also sung Rodolfo at the Teatro alla Scala, New York City Opera, Teatro Verdi in Trieste and most recently with Florida Grand Opera and in Japan with Mo Chung. James has performed Alfredo in *La traviata* for the Salzburg Festival opposite Anna Netrebko, in Seoul, Korea directed by Pier Luigi Pizzi, La Monnaie Brussels, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Hamburg Staatsoper, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, and the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto. James has performed as Lt. Pinkerton in *Madame Butterfly* with the San Francisco Opera, Teatro Carlo Felice in Genova (directed by Renata Scotto), Opera de Marseille, Dresden Semperoper, Ravinia Festival with James Conlon, Michigan Opera Theatre and last year on a nationally televised Emmy award winning "Live from Lincoln Center" with New York City Opera. Other highlights include the title role in *Romeo et Juliette* with The Minnesota Opera, *Faust* in Trieste, Italy with the Opera Carolina, and the Duke in *Rigoletto* with Palm Beach Opera.

James has studied at the prestigious Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia where he performed a variety of roles including the Duke and the title roles in Puccini's *Edgar* and Mascagni's *L'amico Fritz*. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2002 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the 2002 Licia Albanese-Puccini Competition, the 2003 Opera Index Competition, the 2003 Mario Lanza Competition, the 2004 Violetta Du Pont/Opera Florham Competition, the 2004 George London Foundation Competition, the 2004 Caruso International Voice Competition and the 2004 Loren Zachary Competition. He has received grants from the Singer's Development Foundation and the Sullivan Foundation. He has performed on German and Austrian national television, in Italy on RAI's *Prima della Prima* and also in the USA on A&E's *Breakfast with the Arts*.