



ZACHARIAH N. KARIITHI - BARITONE

CV

Zachariah N. Kariithi is a member of the ensemble at the Braunschweig State Theater where his roles include **Eugene Onegin**, **Valentin** in Gounod's *Faust*, **Marcello** in *La Bohème* and **Sharpless** in *Madama Butterfly*. Highlights of the 2023/24 season were his debuts as **Figaro** in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and the baritone solo in *Carmina Burana*. For 2024/25 he is looking forward to singing the title role in a new production of **Don Giovanni** in Braunschweig.

Zachariah N. Kariithi has emerged as one of the most promising new talents from the International Opera Studio of the Hamburg State Opera where he had been engaged from 2015 to 2017. Since this time, he is a regular guest in Hamburg and has been invited to perform **Schaunard**, **Belcore** and **Papageno**. In June 2024 he returned to Hamburg to sing **Moralès** and **Le Dancaïre** in *Carmen*.

Engagements elsewhere have included **Guglielmo** and **Don Giovanni** in Tel Aviv, **Marcello** in *La Bohème* at the Daegu Opera House in South Korea, **Don Fernando** in *Fidelio* at the Opera Bałtycka in Gdańsk, and **Porgy** in *Porgy and Bess* at the Konzerthaus Dortmund, a role he will also sing at the Concertgebouw Amsterdam and the Philharmonie Haarlem.

Zachariah N. Kariithi was born in 1987 in Nairobi, Kenya. He started his musical training at the age of 12 by taking private piano lessons. He later joined the Kenya Conservatoire of Music, where, under the guidance of his teacher, Gachigi Kungu, he continued his piano playing and also started taking voice lessons. After two years he successfully completed the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music exams in voice and piano, which he passed with distinction and with merit, respectively. He later went on to represent Kenya in the World Youth Choir session in the summer of 2008.

He was a student and scholarship recipient at the Buchmann Mehta School of Music at the Tel Aviv University, Israel, and was part of the Adler-Buchmann International Program for Outstanding Foreign Students since 2008. In 2011 he performed with the Buchmann Mehta School of Music Symphony Orchestra as a soloist under the direction of Maestro Zubin Mehta, and, in 2012, performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall in New York. He also performed with the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra and the Haifa Symphony Orchestra in several programs until 2013.

Zachariah N. Kariithi obtained his master's degree in opera at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg, where he was studying from 2013 to 2015. He was also a scholarship recipient from the Hermann und Milena Ebel Stipendium, 2014-2015, and the Hamel Stiftung Hannover, 2015-2016.