



Mr. Lyndaker in costume for the opera *L'elisir d'amore* de Donizetti

VOX

BY The DTMS class

CULTURE [**]

Visit from an American Tenor

Ronald Lyndaker est un passionné d'opéra et travaille à l'Opéra de Nancy depuis de nombreuses années. Les élèves du DTMS au Lycée Jean Rostand ont eu la chance de pouvoir l'interviewer afin d'en savoir plus sur son parcours.

1. college université
2. throat gorge / betrayal trahison
3. rehearsal répétition / stage la scène
4. Stage fright le trac / to have butterflies in your stomach avoir des papillons dans le ventre
5. dressers habilleurs / sweat transpirer / helpful serviable

1 Ronald Lyndaker is 63 years old. After high school, he studied his passion more seriously in college, then did a master's degree in singing. Next, he did a doctorate in vocal performance and opera literature, which lasted 5 years.

After his studies in the US, Mr Lyndaker came to France. He first came to Strasbourg where he had good luck because he heard the Opera in Nancy needed a tenor. He auditioned and was taken.

According to him, when you start a new career, it's very difficult to know if you will be successful or not. Success is taking part in a production, even if it is still a very abstract idea. Even if he has not always succeeded, he doesn't regret anything.

2 When he was small he liked to listen to classical music and orchestral music, as it impressed and touched him at the same time, but he didn't know much about opera back then.

Mr. Lyndaker first discovered opera in high school theater, where he also discovered he liked to sing, and sang in the chorus, in theater and musicals. When he got to college, he studied voice more intensely and learned the art of lyric singing, which is singing opera.

Singing in an opera is different than musicals or theater, because the singers don't use microphones. They project the voice, using resonance in their chambers, like sinus chambers, head chambers, chest and the back of the throat.

His favourite show to sing in is *Carmen* by Bizet. For him, it represents the beginning of realism in opera and communicates a lot of passion. He loves the voices of the singers, and the emotions, love, betrayal and music from it. He finds it very human.

3 His worst experience at the Opera was when he was in a chorus. The rehearsal was in a studio, and he worked only with tenors. But during the staging every chorus member was mixed and he was standing next to a soloist so he couldn't sing his part. Mr Lyndaker was very

frustrated and thought he was not contributing as he should have. So it was really difficult in Nancy but then the opera was performed in Paris, and on stage he was with tenors. His worst experience then became a good experience.

At the Nancy Opera, Lyndaker is chorus member whose voice classification is "spinto."

Spinto is a vocal term used to characterize a soprano or tenor voice of a weight between the lyric and the dramatic, capable of handling large musical climax at the opera at moderate intervals.

4 When we asked him if he was stressed before performances, Mr. Lyndaker replied that he sometimes is, that it's a question of stress management and that his technique to avoid this is to turn his stress into positive energy. According to him, we must always keep in mind that the show must go on. He calls his stage fright "butterflies in your stomach."

5 Lyndaker appreciates the job of the dressers because they prepare all of the costumes; for the soloists and the chorus, before and after the shows. They are also in operation during the shows to get the actors into their dressing rooms. It's team work because the actors shouldn't have to think about what they are wearing, and what they will wear next. Each person has a specific job, and they trust each other's work. That makes the team work efficient. As well, under the lights during a long show, the singers sweat a lot. The dressers wash the costumes for the next show and he finds that comfortable. He said that the dressers are absolutely respected and helpful. They are a part of the technical crew. It's a very nice group of people to work with!

We thank Mr. Lyndaker for making the trip so that we could take an interest in his profession and ask questions about it. It was very rewarding to hear him talk about being an opera singer and we were lucky to hear him sing during the interview, which moved us a lot. We saw the passion that animates him and the desire to share this magnificent profession.