

Richard Leech

Class of 1975

Richard credits his musical success to a long and continued association with the Tri-Cities Opera dating from his early teens. In 1984, he made his New York City Opera debut, and soon began appearing around the country. After receiving the 1988 Richard Tucker Music Foundation Award, he debuted at the Metropolitan Opera as Rodolfo in “*La Boheme*” in 1989. He has also performed at the New York City Opera, the Hollywood Bowl and Lyric Opera of Chicago.

During the 1992-93 season, he appeared in the Met’s new production of “*Lucia di Lammermoor*,” “*Ballo*” and “*La Boheme*,” as well as a debut with the Los Angeles Opera in *Rigoletto*. He sang in *Werther* with the San Diego Opera and *Un Ballo in Maschera* in both Pittsburgh and Bilbao, Spain. He has appeared in Verdi’s “*Requiem*” with Riccardo Muti and the La Scala Orchestra. In 1993, he sang his first “*Tosca*” performance with the Cincinnati Opera and then with the Lyric Opera of Chicago. He performed with the Philadelphia Opera and Cincinnati Opera in “*Romeo and Juliette*” and with Lorin Maazel and the Pittsburgh Symphony in Beethoven’s “*Missa Solemnis*” and “*Symphony No. 9*.”

Other engagements included “*Madam Butterfly*” with the Met, “*Tosca*” with the Pittsburgh Opera, “*La Boheme*” with the San Diego Opera, a concert of arias for Ganibete Cultura in San Paolo, Brazil, the role of Pinkerton in “*Madame Butterfly*,” the title role in “*Faust*” for the San Francisco Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Don Jose in “*Carmen*” with the San Diego Opera.