

Joshua Zabatta, tenor, never imagined that singing while driving a tractor on a Montana farm where he grew up would eventually lead to a promising music career. Although initially studying for a career in broadcasting, Joshua was lured into the world of opera when he was invited to participate in the Johanna Meier Opera Theatre Institute.

Since emerging onto the professional scene, Mr. Zabatta has been praised for his dynamic storytelling and his full, warm voice described by audiences as "audible chocolate." Joshua quickly received acclaim as a "terrific soloist" by Sarah Bryan Miller of the St. Louis Post Dispatch after singing engagements with the Bach Society of St. Louis, with whom he was an apprentice for three seasons. In addition to his multiple appearances with the Bach Society and Union Avenue Opera, Joshua Zabatta served as a soloist in Alban Berg's *Wozzeck* with the St. Louis Symphony under the baton of David Robertson.

After relocating to Colorado, Mr. Zabatta's concert performances in the region included: *Mass in G* by Carl Maria von Weber, *Oratorio de Noël* by Saint-Saëns, *Dvořák Mass in D*, and *Beethoven Mass in C*. During the 2016-2017 Season, Joshua made his debut with Opera Colorado singing Harry in Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West*. Then, through engagements with Boulder Opera, Mr. Zabatta further expanded his repertoire, performing: Don José in *Carmen*, Fernando in *Goyescas* by Granados, and Turridu in *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

Recently, Mr. Zabatta was seen performing the roles of Harlekin and Ein Soldat in Ullmann's *Der Kaiser von Atlantis* with the People's Theatre of Denver. This season Mr. Zabatta is pleased to work with opera companies and orchestras as they begin to reopen, singing: Count Barigoule in Viardot's *Cendrillon* (Loveland Opera) plus the roles of Eduardo Jr. and Mr. Xoloti in *Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World* as part of a television production for Opera Steamboat and live performances with Central City Opera this season.

An avid music education advocate, Mr. Zabatta teaches and mentors dozens of students in Denver, CO, and around the country. Through piano tuning work, he helps ensure that families and teachers, especially in rural areas, can access working pianos. Joshua Zabatta currently serves as a touring and teaching artist with Central City Opera, in addition to being faculty for the Rushmore Music Festival. You can follow Joshua's career through his website (joshuazabatta.com), Facebook, and Instagram.