

How your donations benefit young artists

Police Officer or... Opera Singer!

A conversation with tenor Josh Lovell.

Near the end of high school, Josh Lovell was considering two career paths – police officer or singer.

A chance encounter with POV patron and volunteer George Lovick determined his trajectory. Noticing Josh's beautiful voice, George invited him to his first opera – POV's 2009 production of *The Magic Flute*.

In Josh's words: "I was spellbound! George then took me to *La traviata*, *The Rake's Progress*, and *Così fan tutte*. I began to think seriously about being an opera singer. The career prospects seemed dim, but I thought it better to try and not succeed than to wonder what could have been. I successfully auditioned for the UVic School of Music.'

'Everyone at POV has been so supportive. I remember many a conversation with Timothy Vernon, who encouraged me from the outset. I made my POV debut in 2013 as Bardolfo in *Falstaff*. Before leaving to pursue graduate studies at the University of Michigan, I held a farewell recital in the Wingate Studio. I have now sung in Europe and throughout Canada and the US – and POV played a major role in my success.'

'I want to thank everyone who donates to POV. Because of them, I was able to participate in master classes, receive advice with my auditions, and have my first opportunities to perform in major productions. Without the donors none of this would have been possible. The donors help make POV's productions possible, which then give young artists like myself the opportunities we need to watch, learn, and ultimately perform.'

'Opera is the triple threat of art forms – it encompasses the orchestra, chorus, and principal singers, the designers and craftspeople who create sets, costumes, wigs and makeup, and the stage crew. It is a monumental art form and Victoria would not have this wonderful company were it not for POV's donors. Their support is unbelievably important.'

'I'm certainly glad that I have been able to follow the musical route as an opera singer!'



Tenor **Josh Lovell**, a first-year member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center, was a 2017 national semifinalist in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Since his debut in POV's *Falstaff*, he has returned as Normanno in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. He holds a B.Mus from the University of Victoria and a M.Mus from the University of Michigan. He has performed with the Victoria Symphony, Victoria Baroque Players, Early Music Vancouver, Capriccio Vocal Ensemble, Toledo Symphony Orchestra, and Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra. He recently portrayed Bao Yu in a workshop performance of Bright Sheng's *Dream of the Red Chamber*, commissioned by San Francisco Opera. This season Josh placed 3rd in the Marcello Giordani Foundation International Voice Competition. He participated in SFO's Merola Opera Program and studied at the Universität Mozarteum in Salzburg as a recipient of the Johann Strauss Foundation Scholarship. This season Josh makes his Lyric Opera debut as Emperor Altuom in *Turandot*.

Thank you!

As a valued donor to Pacific Opera Victoria, you are eligible for the following opportunities to enhance your opera experience and connect you more closely with the art and artists:

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Benefits include everything listed above, as well as annual exclusive events with opportunities to meet the artists and learn more about each opera

*Every donation is eligible for a charitable tax receipt and will be recognized for a 12 month period

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