

**Mark Calkins (Music Theatre, Vocal Coach)** 2009 Thursday Musical "Teacher of the Year" has appeared in leading roles with opera companies throughout North America and Europe. He has performed Count Almaviva in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Lindoro in *L'Italiana in Algeri*, The Prince in *La Cenerentola*, The Count in *Le Comte Ory* and Oreste in *Ermione* to critical acclaim in Opera houses such as: Opera De Nantes, France; Dublin Grand Opera, Ireland; Cologne Opera, Germany; The Lyric Opera of Chicago, Birmingham Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Chicago Opera Theater, Castleward Opera, Northern Ireland; Kentucky Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Toledo Opera, Minnesota Opera, Opera Omaha, Mobile Opera, Central City Opera and Dayton Opera.

A former member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's young artist development program, the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists, Mark was featured as Cassio in *Otello* on an A&E nationwide production of *Spotlight Colorado* and starred in a National PBS Television broadcast and World Premiere of Robert Greenleaf's *Under the Arbor*, available on DVD. Concert engagements include appearances in Europe's Music festivals in Salzburg, Bregenz, Villach, Austria; Merano, Italy and Bremen, Germany with Roger Norrington conducting the London Classical Players in Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. He has appeared throughout the U.S. in Broadway touring productions of *Phantom of the Opera*. Assistant Professor Calkins joined the faculty of Berea College, Berea, KY in 2009. Mark also teaches at Centre College, Danville, KY. His recent collegiate students include many statewide Kentucky and Minnesota NATS competition winners, 2009 Thursday Musical competition and 2009 MTNA winners, perform leading roles in the college operas/shows, soloists and section leaders in the college choirs. Some of his students have been awarded Graduate Assistantships in prominent programs such as U.K, Lexington, I.U. Bloomington and Denver University.

Mark maintains a private studio of young professional singers and teaches master classes in performance at the pre-professional level across the country and in Italy. Recent performances include: Nadir in Bizet's *Les Pecheurs de Perles* with FM Opera, Camille in the Operafestival di Roma production of *La vedova allegra* (The Merry Widow, Lehar) in Rome, Italy, Count Almaviva in productions of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Acadiana Orchestra, Louisiana and Opera Fort Collins, Colorado, Don Ottavio in Rome, Italy in the Operafestival di Roma production of *Don Giovanni*. In January of 2009 Mark and his wife, Cynthia Lawrence, appeared in recital at the 4th International Conference on the Physiology and Acoustics of Singing at the University of Texas, San Antonio.

Mark was born and raised in Cottage Grove, Minnesota, earned a B.M. in K-12 Music Education from Concordia College, Moorhead, an M.M. in Voice Performance & Pedagogy from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He is a recipient of the Ted & Roberta Mann and Berneking Fellowships from the University of Minnesota where he is near completion of his DMA.. Prior academic appointments: Northwestern College, St. Paul, 2001-2005 and St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, 2005-2009.