

HAO JIANG TIAN DEBUT SOLO CD ON NAXOS IN STORES APRIL 18th

On April 18th, Naxos will release the debut international solo recording of Hao Jiang Tian, the Chinese-born bass whose appearances in the world's leading opera houses have met with wide acclaim. This new collection highlights 12 bass arias by Verdi, Rossini, Gounod and Tchaikovsky and others. From the original French versions of Verdi's operas for the Paris Opera to rarities from Bellini's *La Sonnambula* and Ponchielli's *La Gioconda*, these are "arias that have been very important for me both personally and professionally," says Tian.

Since his Metropolitan Opera debut in 1991, Hao Jiang Tian has appeared at the Met in every subsequent season, earning widespread recognition as one of the most prominent bass singers in the world today. With more than 50 roles to his credit, Tian's auspicious international debuts have included Roger in Verdi's *Jerusalem* at the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, Don Basilio in Rossini's *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the Teatro Comunale in Florence, and Procida in Verdi's *Les Vepres Siciliennes* at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam.

A graduate of China's Central Conservatory of Music, the Beijing-born Tian briefly joined China's Central Philharmonic Society before coming to the US to continue his musical studies at the University of Denver. His awards include the San Francisco Opera Competition, the Rosa Ponselle Foundation Award, and the Bel Canto Foundation Voice Competition, whose first prize included studies with tenor Carlo Bergonzi in Verdi's hometown of Busseto.

Tian has appeared in two Metropolitan Opera DVDs (*La Fanciulla del West*, *Simon Boccanegra*), and numerous Metropolitan Opera Broadcasts. At the Washington National Opera, he has appeared with Placido Domingo in two rare stagings of Massenet's *Le Cid* and Gomes's *Il Guarany*, the latter of which Tian and Domingo recorded with the State Opera of Bonn. He has appeared in the New York premiere of Tan Dun's *Water Passion after St. Matthew* and will perform the leading bass role in Tan's opera *The First Emperor*, commissioned by the Met and to be premiered in December 2006. He will also premiere Guo Wenjing's opera *Poet Li Bai*, whose title role was written especially for him, at Denver's Central City Opera in July 2007.



Hao Jiang TIAN: Operatic Arias

**Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra
Alexander Rahbari (conductor)**

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