

Praised for his “**chilling refinement in bearing and voice**” (*Opera Wire*), Thandolwethu Mamba has been described as having a “**magnificent voice**” and “**possessing an extraordinary capacity for timbral flexibility, which he exploits with a level of artistic maturity and musical tact**” (*Classical Voice of North Carolina*). Mamba is a baritone from Eswatini who continues to establish himself on opera and concert stages, showcasing his command of diverse styles and repertoire.



Following his Metropolitan Opera debut in the ensemble of **X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X** in November 2023, Thando had another role and house debut as Sonora in **La Fanciulla del West** with North Carolina Opera before creating the role of The Guide/Chris in the NYC Premiere of **The Cost of Believing** by Paul Brill. As a 2024/25 Opera Orlando Studio Artist, Mamba has had role debuts in company productions of **Macbeth, 4 Lost Santas / Amahl and the Night Visitors, Cendrillon, Werther, Beatrice & Benedict / Cavalleria Rusticana, and Treemonisha**. Other recent roles have included the title roles in **Don Giovanni, Le Nozze di Figaro** and **Gianni Schicchi**, Baron Duophol in **La Traviata**, Dancaïro in **Carmen**, Don Calogero Sedàra in **The Leopard** (a world premiere later released on Naxos Records to critical acclaim), Town Magistrate in **Signor Deluso**, and Max in **Stone Soup** with Opera Wilmington, Frost Opera Theater, *Si parla, si canta*, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis and Florida Grand Opera.

Thandolwethu Mamba is a member of The Cafritz Young Artists of Washington National Opera. He made his John F. Kennedy Center debut as Count Almaviva in **Le Nozze di Figaro**.

An artist who always seeks to create experiences that will reach a diverse audience, Mamba’s concert program with pianist David Heid, **Paths & Journeys**, debuted in North Carolina in the Fall of 2022 and was described as “**a vibrant and enriching collaboration**” (CVNC). He regularly features music from diverse cultures and languages, including music from Sub-Saharan Africa and his home country, Eswatini, as seen in his performances in the **St Hugh-Steinway Series** 2023 Valentines Concert alongside soprano Elizabeth Caballero, as well as in his capacity as the Corpus Christi Church Miami International Artist in Residence.

As an undergraduate at **Duke University**, he was awarded the prestigious **Louis Sudler Prize** as well as the **Benenson Award for the Arts**. Named the First Place and Grand Prize recipient of the 2022 **Heafner/Williams Vocal Competition**, he is also a winner of the **Raleigh Symphony Orchestra Rising Stars Competition**, which led to

his orchestral debut in Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*. Mamba was a prize winner in the 2025 **Metropolitan Opera Eric and Dominique Laffont Competition** Eastern Regionals following emerging as one of the winners of the competition's New York District. Mamba has also been a finalist and prize winner in the **Mary Jacobs Singer of the Year Competition**, **Pasadena Vocal Competition**, **Mildred Miller International Voice Competition**, **Benjamin Mathews Vocal Competition**, and **Career Bridges Grant Awards**.

Mamba is a double graduate (Artist Diploma and Master of Music) of the **University of Miami Frost School of Music** where he studied with Metropolitan Opera baritone Kim Josephson. Thando, as he is more commonly known, is committed to developing the growth of opera as a celebrated and sustainable art form in his home country and the continent of Africa at large. Often regarded as a trailblazer, he is the first Swati national, and at times, African, to debut with leading opera and concert companies in the United States, Europe, and Latin America, including the Metropolitan Opera, Washington National Opera, National Symphony Orchestra, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Florida Grand Opera, Opera Orlando, Sinfonia Carlo Coccia (Italy), among many more. Having quickly risen to the upper echelon of young opera singers in the country from a biochemical research and pre-med background, Thando credits the resilience and tenacity that saw him escape a life of poverty as an orphan in the tiny southern African kingdom through his academic prowess that saw him win scholarships to pursue his academic goals abroad, first to Armenia (as the pioneering international class at UWC Dilijan), and to Duke University and the University of Miami to further his studies. A boy once inspired to be a pediatric neurosurgeon, Thando sees his artistic practice as a classical singer as a form of healing, only now with the stage and recording booth in lieu of the operating room and doctor's office.