

Stroudsburg High grad will sing solo at Carnegie Hall

June 15, 2007

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At times, it can be an iffy life.

A professional baritone, Daniel Hoy often wonders if he'll be hired for this or that performance, be rehired as an extra chorus member for the Metropolitan Opera, find work next year, etc.

This 1996 graduate of Stroudsburg High School and winner of the Fred Waring Choral Award is fine with all that. It has been his persistence and willingness to go wherever the performance takes him that has landed him one of his biggest gigs to date: Carnegie Hall. He will make his solo debut there on June 18.

"It's very gratifying, and I'm very thankful," Hoy said. "In a way, it verifies the choices I've made career wise."

He will be a soloist in Mozart's "Requiem" and perform in John Rutter's "Mass of the Children."

He auditioned through MidAmerica Productions after being recommended by Raymond Hughes, the outgoing chorus master at the Met.

At first, he was a member of The San Diego Opera Ensemble and unable to make the audition. They called a year later, and he sang for them in November. It took two months for a response.

"It's just the business. You audition. That's it," he said.

When Hoy received the call, he was pleased, for he had been singing the work of John Rutter for years. "It's modern, yet it has a timeless feel about it. It's very melodic. A lot of modern music is not easy to listen to, but his is," Hoy said.

To be singing Rutter's work and be conducted by him is something special to Hoy. "To be conducted by the person who wrote the music doesn't happen a lot, and that is the exciting thing about doing this piece," he said.

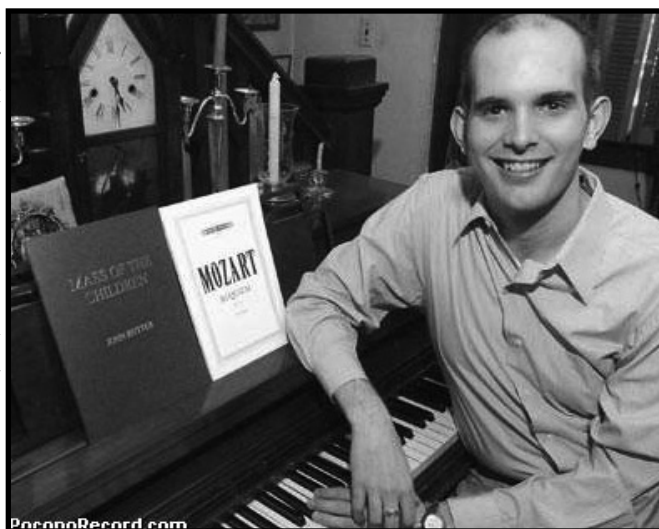
He is rehearsing and preparing now for the concert.

"I'm not scared," Hoy said. "I want to do my absolute best. I don't want to get sick. I want to do everything I can to be in my best form."

And as a performer, he is hitting his musical stride.

He has performed in "Lohengrin" and "Parsifal" in 2006 and in "Don Carlo," "The First Emperor" premiere with Plácido Domingo, "Simon Boccanegra" and "Die Meistersinger" in 2007 with the Metropolitan Opera. He also was in The San Diego Opera Ensemble's "Wozzeck," directed by Des McAnuff.

"It's been an exciting year, and I'm gearing up for the Carnegie Hall thing," he said.



Daniel Hoy of Stroudsburg will soon be making his solo debut at Carnegie Hall.

He also realized just how similar things are everywhere. Performers from Pocono Lively Arts to the Metropolitan Opera are not as different as you think, he said. It might be faster and bigger on an international stage, but it is still about the performance and preparing for it.

Is it all worth it?

Other friends have houses and families, but Hoy has put that on hold. He went to college and graduate school, and then participated in four years of Young Artist Programs.

“It’s about being on stage and performing,” he said. “A lot of it is never burning bridges and being a great colleague. It’s such a cliché, but it is who you know,” he said.

And this life has its perks.

“In a way, this lifestyle is freeing, not a desk job. It’s like being Mary Poppins and being free to go with the wind,” he said.

Yet, the craving of a permanent home still nags on occasion. Hoy is grateful for landing the Metropolitan Opera job, which allowed him to move to New York.

Therefore, he is willing to put up with all the auditions and building a reputation as a qualified and dedicated singer.

“You really have to want it. I’ve honestly questioned it myself. I gave myself 30 to get the ball rolling, and it is working. You need to set goals to work toward something,” said Hoy, who admitted that it has been more difficult than he had imagined, but entirely worth it.

The waiting for the next call confirming a performance can be a nail-biter. “Feeding myself with my voice has always been my goal,” said Hoy, who is also open to teaching, too.

“It really makes you trust that God will provide something. So far, I’ve been blessed and have no complaints. I wouldn’t change anything,” Hoy said. “It makes you appreciate everything you have. It’s not a given.”